

The return of Anohni

'All the creatures of the world are our family'

→ **Film & Music** *G2*

Nadal announces plans to retire from tennis next year → *Sport*



The Guardian

Newspaper of the year

Friday
19 May 2023
£2.80
From £1.57 for subscribers

Fresh sanctions against Russia as PM seeks to rally support for Kyiv

Rowena Mason
Hiroshima

The UK unveiled a swathe of new sanctions against Russia yesterday, as Rishi Sunak arrived at the G7 summit in Japan with a self-declared mission to push India into showing greater support for Ukraine.

Flying into Hiroshima for the three-day gathering of world leaders, Sunak announced a UK ban on the imports of Russian diamonds and Russian-origin copper, nickel and aluminium, with other G7 members expected to follow suit.

Seeking to push his credentials on the global stage following a bruising few weeks of domestic politics, Sunak will also set out sanctions targeting another 86 individuals and firms linked to Vladimir Putin, taking the total UK sanctions list to more than 1,500. Those newly sanctioned are described as being "from Putin's military industrial complex", as well as those involved in key economic areas including energy, metals and shipping.

A key task for Sunak will be pushing leaders who have maintained a more neutral stance over Russia's invasion of Ukraine, notably the Indian prime minister, Narendra Modi, to "show 8 →



▲ *The prime minister, Rishi Sunak, and his wife, Akshata Murty, arrive in Japan for the G7 summit, which begins today* PHOTOGRAPH: STEFAN ROUSSEAU/POOL/AP

Council tenants facing 350% rise in energy bills

Alex Lawson
Sarah Marsh

Residents in council homes and private flats with communal heating systems have seen a "nightmare" spike in bills, leaving them scrambling to fund increases of up to 350%.

An estimated 480,000 households nationwide are affected, according to government data, as the impact of last autumn's surge in energy prices filters through to bills for this financial year. Many live in council-owned tower blocks, which house some of the lowest-income families in the country. 13 →

BT to replace staff with AI as part of huge cuts

Mark Sweney

BT said yesterday that it would become a "leaner business" as it announced plans to reduce its workforce by as much as 55,000 by 2030, more than 40% of its global employee base, with about 10,000 of the jobs to be replaced by artificial intelligence.

The telecoms company employs about 130,000 staff globally, with about 30,000 of those working as contractors through third parties. It has about 80,000 staff in the UK.

Yesterday, BT said it intended to reduce its total workforce to between 75,000 and 90,000. The company aims to take advantage of new technology, such as artificial intelligence, which could be used to make areas such as call handling and network diagnostics less labour intensive.

Philip Jansen, BT's chief executive, said the introduction of AI across its business could result in the elimination of the equivalent of about 10,000 roles.

"For a company like BT there is a huge opportunity to use AI to be more efficient," he said. "There is a sort of 10,000 reduction from that sort of automated 2 →

Last chance! Get your newspaper half price
Page 28

20
9 770261 307255

VISIT…

LANZAROTE Caliente.com

Inside *19/05/23*
Four sections every day

News and Sport

Plunging into the red
Royal Mail has reported a £1bn loss, blaming strikes and poor productivity
Page 31

Journal Outside G2
Opinions and ideas

❝Let us teach about slavery properly - by connecting it to the present
Lola Okolosie
Page 3

G2 Centre pullout
Features and arts

The reader interview
Shirley Collins on finding lost treasures, losing her voice and the folk greats
Page 3

Save up to 50% with a subscription to the Guardian and the Observer
Visit theguardian.com/paper-subs

Weather
Page 34

Quick crossword
Back of G2

Cartoon
Journal, page 4

Cryptic crossword
Back of Journal

Contact

For missing sections call **0800 839 100**.
For individual departments, call the Guardian switchboard: **020 3353 2000**.
For the Readers' editor (corrections & clarifications on specific editorial content), call **020 3353 4736** between 10am and 1pm UK time Monday to Friday excluding public holidays, or email **guardian.readers@theguardian.com**.
Letters for publication should be sent to **guardian.letters@theguardian.com** or the address on the letters page.

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING
The recycled paper content of UK newspapers in 2017 was 64.6%

Guardian News & Media, Kings Place, 90 York Way, London N1 9GU. 020-3353 2000. Fax 020-7837 2114. In Manchester: Centurion House, 129 Deansgate, Manchester M3 3WR. Telephone Sales: 020-7611 9000. The Guardian lists links to third-party websites, but does not endorse them or guarantee their authenticity or accuracy. Back issues from Historic Newspapers: 0870-165 1470 guardian.backissuenewspapers.co.uk. Published by Guardian News & Media, Kings Place, 90 York Way, London N1 9GU, and at Centurion House, 129 Deansgate, Manchester M3 3WR. Printed at Reach Watford Limited, St Albans Road, Watford, Herts WD24 7RG; Reach Oldham Limited, Hollinwood Avenue, Chadderton, Oldham OL9 8EP; Reach Saltire Ltd, 110 Fifty Pitches Place, Glasgow G51 4EA; and by Irish Times Print Facility, 4080 Kingswood Road, Citywest Business Campus, Dublin 24. No. 54,974, Friday 19 May 2023. Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office ISSN 0261-3077.

News

BT announces plan to cut up to 55,000 jobs and become a 'leaner business'

Continued *from page 1*

digitisation, we will be a huge beneficiary of AI. I believe generative AI is a huge leap forward; yes, we have to be careful, but it is a massive change."

While Jansen said that the job cuts would come from across the global business, a "big chunk" of those were expected to be in the UK as the fibre broadband and 5G rollout was completed, meaning fewer engineers are needed, and old 3G and copper technology phased out.

"When we stop building the network we won't need that workforce," he said. "We will rely on a much smaller workforce and new networks are much more efficient. There will be fewer contractors, natural attrition and reskilling. Only 5,000 [job cuts] in this plan are what you would call 'normal' restructuring. This is not new news to any of our union partners."

However, Prospect, the union that represents thousands of BT managers, expressed concern at the size of the cuts planned over the next seven years.

"Prospect are deeply concerned by the scale of these cuts," the Prospect national secretary, John Ferrett, said. "Announcing such a huge reduction in this way will be very unsettling for workers who did so much to keep the country connected during the pandemic.

"As a union we want to see the details behind this announcement in order to understand how it will impact upon members and have demanded an urgent meeting with the chief executive."

However, the Communications Workers Union, which represents the majority of BT workers, said the cuts proposal was not a surprise to its members.

"The introduction of new technologies across the company along with the completion of the fibre infrastructure build replacing the copper network was always going to result in less labour costs for the company in the coming years," said a spokesperson. "However, we have made it categorically clear to BT that we want to retain as many direct labour jobs as possible and that any reduction should come from subcontractors in the first instance and natural attrition."

BT, which reported a 12% drop in pre-tax profits to £1.7bn for the year to the end of March, aims to make £3bn in annualised cost savings by 2025.

The company also reported that its pay-TV sport joint venture with Warner Bros Discovery had made a £123m loss for the year.

BT said the joint venture had "underperformed against business plan" because of a range of factors including "cost of living pressures affecting the premium sports subscription market".

On Tuesday, Vodafone announced it planned to make 11,000 job cuts over the next three years, the largest in the telecoms company's history.

10,000
The number of jobs BT says it will replace with artificial intelligence, in areas such as call handling

Sunak says UK will lead 'safe and secure' AI introduction

Rowena Mason
Whitehall editor

The UK will lead on limiting the dangers of artificial intelligence, Rishi Sunak has said, after calls from some tech experts and business leaders for a moratorium.

The prime minister said AI could bring benefits and prove transformative for society, but it had to be introduced "safely and securely with guard rails in place".

His comments sound a more cautious approach than in the past, after tech leaders including Twitter's owner, Elon Musk, and Apple's co-founder, Steve Wozniak, added their names to nearly 30,000 signatures on a letter urging a pause in significant projects.

The letter called for a moratorium while the capabilities and dangers of systems such as Chat GPT-4 can be properly studied and mitigated in response to fears about the creation of digital minds, fraud, disinformation and the risk to jobs.

Sunak has been an advocate of AI, emphasising its benefits rather than risks, and in March the government announced a light-touch regulatory programme that did not appear to include proposals for any new laws or enforcement bodies.

He also launched a £100m UK taskforce last month to develop "safe and reliable" applications for AI with the aim of making the country a science and technology superpower by 2030.

But speaking on the plane to Japan for the G7 summit, where AI will be discussed, Sunak said a global approach to regulation was needed.

"We have taken a deliberately iterative approach because the technology is evolving quickly and we want to make sure that our regulation can evolve as it does as well," he said. "Now that is going to involve coordination with our allies … you would expect it to form some of the conversations as well at the G7.

"I think that the UK has a track record of being in a leadership position and bringing people together, particularly in regard to technological regulation in the online safety bill … And again, the companies themselves, in that instance as well, have worked with us and looked to us to provide those guard rails as they will do and have done on AI."

No 10 has indicated that it did not think a moratorium was the answer, but it was moving towards thinking about a global framework. The UK Competition and Markets Authority said yesterday it would look at the underlying systems - or foundation models - behind AI tools. The initial review, described by one legal expert as a "pre-warning" to the sector, will publish its findings in September.

Geoffrey Hinton, the "godfather of AI", quit Google this month in order to speak more freely about the technology's dangers, and the UK government's outgoing scientific adviser, Sir Patrick Vallance, has urged ministers to "get ahead" of the profound social and economic changes that AI could trigger.



▲ *Geoffrey Hinton, the 'godfather of AI', quit Google to talk more freely about the technology's dangers*
PHOTOGRAPH: MARK BLINCH/REUTERS

Why support the Guardian?

Emma Graham-Harrison



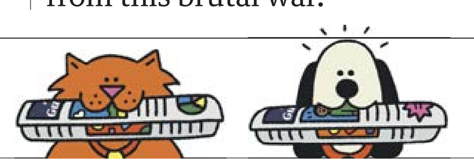
I'm currently in Ukraine, on my seventh reporting trip since Russia invaded last year. Working here means seeing first-hand some of the worst things humans do to each other, and the terrible destructive power of modern weapons. It is often exhausting and dangerous, and always expensive.

But the Guardian is committed to covering the conflict in-depth because this is a war for the future of democracy in Europe and beyond. I'm grateful that readers are still following the horrors unfolding here, and that the Guardian has covered news of the war every day since Putin ordered troops over the border.

We will stay here until the fighting stops, and afterwards as Ukraine rebuilds. If you appreciate our journalism and want to ensure we can report what is happening here, please consider a subscription to the Guardian and Observer.

It remains the best way to make sure we have the resources to tell you what is happening. No one can afford to look away from this brutal war.

Last chance! Get your newspaper half price
Scan the QR code or visit *theguardian.com/paper-subs*



Film review

Ford cracks the whip in taut sequel filled with zip and fun



▲ Harrison Ford as Indy and Phoebe Waller-Bridge as Helena Shaw; the Fleabag star with Ethann Isidore (Teddy) on the red carpet (below)
PHOTOGRAPH: JONATHAN OLLEY/LUCASFILM LTD



Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny
Cannes film festival
★★★☆☆

Peter Bradshaw

So the boulder of intellectual property and franchise brand identity rolls on … bringing us Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny, the fifth film in which the legendary archaeologist and whip-cracking adventurer is back for another go-around.

He is, of course, played by Harrison Ford, now 81 years young but carrying it off with humour and style, and still nailing that reluctant crooked smile.

It's the first Indiana Jones film not to be directed by Steven Spielberg – James Mangold is now at the helm – but despite that, this one has quite a bit of zip and fun and narrative ingenuity with all its MacGuffiny silliness that the last one (Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull) really did not.

We all sat down to this movie hoping for a resurgence comparable to what JJ Abrams achieved with his work on Star Wars: The Force Awakens, and if that didn't exactly happen, it still gets up a storytelling gallop.

Phoebe Waller-Bridge has a tremendous co-star turn as Indy's roguish goddaughter, Helena Shaw, who wears shorts and a shirt that make her look like a grownup naughty Enid Blyton heroine (there are no Fleabag fourth-wall breaks, though).

And in fact, some amazing digital youthification effects give Indy himself a great opening flashback section set in the second world war.

Back in the bad old days of 1944, with the Third Reich beginning to crumble, the intrepid young spy Indiana Jones is captured by the fiendish Nazis along with his good pal, Prof Basil Shaw, in which small role it is a pleasure to see Toby Jones. They grab what the Germans want: the extant half of a much-desired artefact created by Archimedes, the Dial of Destiny, an item that allows its owner to control the forces of space and time, but which Archimedes prudently split into two – and hid the other half.

A chase with a nasty German, Jürgen Voller (Mads Mikkelsen), leaves this whole business unresolved but then we fast forward to the present day: the space-age late 60s, and grumpy old Indiana Jones is retiring, miserable at his irrelevance in the modern world.

But this same Voller, under a fake name, is the brains behind the Apollo 11 moon landing, having conned the US federal government – represented by Agent Mason (Shaunette Renée Wilson) – and still dreaming of controlling the universe and reintroducing Nazism by joining the dial's two halves.

Only Indy can stop him, along with his scapegrace godchild Helena, who is in fact making a dodgy living flogging antiquities on the black market – and she has a cheeky sidekick in tow: Teddy (Ethann Isidore).

There are plenty of jolly chases, including a tuktuk v classic Jag event in the narrow streets of Tangier, and for the Jones purists, some creepy encounters with insects and an underground tomb whose passageways open up with a grinding noise.

It is probably a bit cheeky to be giving Ford a young female co-star under this "goddaughter" tag, with a bantering tension that is really not too different to what he might have had with a (platonic) co-star in the original movies.

Yet the finale is wildly silly and entertaining, and that Dial of Destiny is put to an audacious use that makes light of the whole question of defying ageing and the gravitational pull of time. Indiana Jones still has a certain old-school class.

Franchises make me feel nauseous, says Wenders

Vanessa Thorpe
Cannes

Wim Wenders, the revered German director who has two major premieres at Cannes this year, has spoken of his "disappointment" at the mainstream dominance of remakes and "repetitive" film franchises.

"It makes me nauseous," said Wenders, now 77, who is best-known for the dramas Paris, Texas (1984) and Wings of Desire (1987), as well as the music documentary Buena Vista Social Club (1999).

"I feel all the imagination has now gone only into 'How do I vary it?', and not 'How do I come up with something new?' For me, this is not storytelling. Doing a remake is not storytelling. It is like repeating a story that has been told and my only desire is to find out how to tell a story. And then forget about it."

Wenders' own films may seem resistant to remake on account of their aesthetic singularity. But the director regrets this has not always been enough of a deterrent: "They did remake Wings of Desire, as City of Angels. But they used plot as their main driving force, and yet Wings of Desire is as devoid of plot as it could possibly be. The little plot that was in it, they made that the driving force."

Wenders' latest feature, Perfect Days, about a soulful Japanese toilet cleaner, was shot over 17 days in Tokyo and premieres in Cannes next Thursday. He could be in line for his second Palme d'Or, nearly 40 years after winning with Paris, Texas.

Already screened is his atmospheric documentary about the German painter Anselm Kiefer, which uses 3D photography to recreate the power of Kiefer's monumental and often disturbing works.

For Wenders, 3D is an undervalued resource – one most famously deployed by the director in his documentary about the German dancer and choreographer Pina Bausch.

"I have tried several times to show the poetic possibilities of storytelling in 3D, and how it massively increases the possibilities of a film-maker's tools; how you can be more in somebody's world than ever before," he says.

"I encourage students and young film-makers to use it, but for some reason they are all afraid of it. And they are still more afraid of the distributors, or cinema owners, because these people are used to 3D as just action material or directed towards children."

The difficult legacy of war is a clear bond between Wenders and the painter at the centre of his documentary. Both men were born in 1945 and grew up amid the devastation left by the second world war.



▲ 'A remake is not storytelling …' Wenders at Cannes yesterday

"Anselm and I used our common past, and the war, to different ends. Anselm really worked on his, really got to the bottom of it and really struggled with it," said Wenders. "Myself, I just wanted out. I left Germany. I was aware of the fact all the grown-ups were not looking back and that there was something wrong they were all trying to make disappear. But I did not confront it as much as Anselm."

Wenders says Cannes is much changed since 1984, when he took its top prize. "Everyone here is not so cinema-oriented any more. Now there's a lot of people who love the business of movies. And the business must not be the primary focus, although they do go along with each other. Business is driving it all today. Series, franchises, remakes – or 'recipes' for films. It disappoints me, the success of recipe-made movies."



Water firms criticised for passing £10bn sewage bill to customers

Sandra Laville
Environment correspondent

The water industry's promise to triple investment in the sewage system in England to reduce pollution and quell public anger should not be taken on trust, campaigners have said.

Clean water activists, including surfers, swimmers and anglers, criticised water companies for passing the £10bn bill for investment to customers, saying the work should have been carried out years ago.

Anglian Water admitted bills could rise by about £91 a year to fund the investment, saying "the money does have to come from somewhere".

Campaigners want much tougher regulation to ensure the promised investment in more than 350,000 miles of the sewage network takes place and reduces pollution.

Feargal Sharkey, the former Undertones frontman and clean river campaigner, said customers would be paying again for investment that the companies should have been carrying out to fulfil their legal obligations. "We should have an apology for the suggestion they are going to put bills up by £10bn for their incompetence and their greed. This is nothing to celebrate," he said.

Theo Thomas, of the group London Waterkeeper, said nothing should happen on trust alone. He said the industry was still pumping out false narratives that Victorian pipes were to blame despite the fact that two-thirds of London's system was built after that time.

"We need regulators to squeeze water companies so they have nowhere to hide. False narratives must be challenged. However much the monopolies choose to spend and add to our bills, we need an end to light-touch regulation. We need assertive scrutiny to make sure investment will see fewer sewer spills."

England's privatised water companies have paid out dividends of £2bn a year on average since they were given the utility debt-free more than three decades ago. In 2022, water companies paid shareholders dividends of £1.4bn, up from £540m in 2021.

Any increased investment by water companies has to be approved by the regulator, Ofwat, which warned water companies on Friday that they would have to explain how their proposals would be funded, the impact this would have on customer bills, and their expected return to shareholders and lenders.

Ashley Smith of Windrush Against Sewage Pollution, who has been campaigning for six years to shed light on pollution of the River Windrush, which runs through Gloucestershire and Oxfordshire, said every year directors signed declarations that the companies were adequately funded to deliver the services required.

"Then they rake off dividends and bonuses and now we effectively have an apology for underinvestment - so the dividends and bonuses that were creamed off must have been eating into the money needed to sort out the capacity and legality issues exposed by campaigners," he said.

"That money was taken in contravention of Ofwat licence terms so we are less interested in an apology than we are in a refund to pay to fix the sewage scandal. This looks like a PR stunt to con the public into paying higher bills and also to get the government and regulators out of a hole of their own making."

A spokesperson for Anglian Water, Regan Harris, told the BBC bills could rise by £1.75 a week - or £91 a year - to pay for the investment, or a 10-12% increase between now and 2030.

Yorkshire Water's chief executive, Nicola Shaw, made a personal apology to customers in her area for sewage pollution in rivers.

Campaigners from Ilkley Clean River - the first activists to secure bathing water status for part of a river in England, to drive a clean-up - welcomed her change in direction. The firm has announced it will invest £180m in the next two years, reducing discharges from 190 storm overflows.

The chief executive of Southern Water, Lawrence Gosden, joined four other water bosses this week to announce he would forgo his bonus for not meeting the expectations of customers over sewage pollution in another public mea culpa by the industry.

▲ *People relax on the banks of the River Wharfe in Ilkley, West Yorkshire*
PHOTOGRAPH: PAUL ELLIS/AFP/GETTY

▼ *South West Water engineers check a sewage pipe near Downderry, Cornwall*



Analysis
Sandra Laville



These companies exist to serve shareholders. It's always the public that ends up paying

Across the country this weekend, campaigners will paddle out on their local rivers or from beaches to warn water companies that they will not put up with another summer of sewage pollution. No doubt they will be buoyed by the high-profile mea culpa from the privatised water companies, along with a promise to treble their existing investment in pipes, water treatment works and water storage to £10bn over the next 10 years.

But if Ruth Kelly, the head of the industry body Water UK and one of the architects of this belated change of direction, thinks it will see off any more of these mass protests, she is likely to be disappointed. Kelly, who is new to the job, reverted to dubious claims about the Victorians as she promised the investment. "These are 150-year-old pipes and sewage systems that need to be upgraded," she said. The Victorian myth has been used for years by water companies as an excuse not to act because the task is just too great.

In fact, pipes, sewers and treatment plants mostly date from the 1970s and 80s. In the more than three decades since water was privatised, there have been many opportunities to invest the necessary money to keep modernising, but as some water bosses now admit, they have instead overseen decades of under-investment, while taking huge salaries - in one case £3.9m - and paying dividends to shareholders that last year reached £1.4bn.

Water bosses have overseen decades of under-investment while taking huge salaries and paying dividends - topping £1.4bn last year

Within the puff of the announcement carefully placed in friendly media yesterday by an industry forced into a change of tack, the crux is stark: it is customers who will be paying for this trebling of investment, which water companies should have been carrying out for years to fulfil their legal duties. It has always been the customer who pays, as the once publicly owned utility has morphed into a highly complex, opaque financial instrument set up to maximise returns for investors.

Now the customer will be asked to pay even more if the companies do triple their investments. This is despite Ofwat having made clear last year that the companies had all the funding needed to carry out all their legal responsibilities, which are to treat sewage and provide clean water, and did not need to raise bills.

Kelly said that, by and large, water companies had indeed been carrying out their legal duties, probably a claim too far for many of those waxing surfboards and blowing up paddleboards before the mass anti-pollution protests tomorrow. So far have some water companies been from carrying out their legal duties that six of them are at the centre of a major investigation into suspected illegal activity by Ofwat. And it was only two years ago that Southern Water was fined a record £90m for illegally dumping billions of litres of raw sewage into protected waters.

Behind the apologies and promises of more money - promises that seem to come once a month with a general election on the horizon - there is still a lack of recognition that the public have been paying for a service they did not get. It has taken surfers, swimmers, paddlers and dedicated data detectives such as Prof Peter Hammond to reveal the scale of water companies' failures; and with the print still drying on their apology, those guardians of the waters will continue to hold those responsible to account.

Young fear the reaper
Gen Z are 'more likely to believe in hell'
Page 7

Harry and Meghan
Duke and duchess left 'shaken up' by chase
Page 16



National



Best baa none Shepherd Stanley Jackson, second left, lines up his champion Herdwick ram after winning best shearling at the annual Keswick Tup Fair. Herdwicks, which have been shown at the Lake District event since at least the 1840s, are distinctive because of their white faces and legs and slate blue fleece, hand-painted with red ochre so they are easy to spot on the Cumbrian fells.

PHOTOGRAPH: CHRISTOPHER THOMOND/ THE GUARDIAN

Crime agency to pursue lawyers accused of helping traffickers

Daniel Boffey
Chief reporter

The National Crime Agency is preparing to pursue up to 100 lawyers it believes are helping traffickers abuse modern slavery laws to secure asylum for people entering the UK.

A potentially controversial sweep is being undertaken by the NCA, the British equivalent of the FBI, to identify solicitors who may be breaching their professional code or committing crimes by providing services to organised crime.

Ministers have claimed that Albanian gangs are misusing the asylum system at a time when record numbers are referred to the Home Office as potential victims of exploitation.

Rob Richardson, the head of the NCA's modern slavery and human trafficking unit, said the agency was in "target identification" mode. He said: "One of the things that we've seen is an increase in how organised crime groups use third parties to abuse protective mechanisms.

"It's been well reported that there are concerns that particularly Albanian organised crime groups are frustrating law enforcement efforts by claiming that they are victims of trafficking or seeking asylum, and where we are particularly interested from a NCA perspective is how does the legal industry, how do lawyers, support organised crime groups to do that."

> *'We've seen examples where individuals have got scripts of what to tell police'*
>
> **Rob Richardson**
> *National Crime Agency*

He added: "So we've seen some examples where individuals have got scripts. They've been told exactly what to tell policemen to get picked up. And we have concerns about how that works."

The government is seeking, through the illegal migration bill, to remove temporary protections from removal given to suspected victims of modern slavery or human trafficking while their case is considered.

Richardson said he was aware of the difficulty and sensitivity of the NCA sweep because of the protections, known as privilege, given to communications between a lawyer and their clients. He said the agency would work with, among others, the Solicitors Regulation Authority in an effort to discipline or strike off non-compliant lawyers where prosecutions were not possible.

He said: "I know this sounds like a cliche, but not one agency can tackle those kind of issues, so when we're looking at tackling lawyers we do have to be careful because there are aspects of legal privilege.

"We will often see individual circumstances or individual accounts, where it is believed that – I'm going to be careful not to use the word 'corrupt' – a non-compliant solicitor is advising an organised crime group."

He added: "We are conducting a survey at present to understand who are the high-risk agents but we haven't a sense of scale yet … It's less than 100, it may well be in the tens, I would estimate."

The NCA has new legislative tools to use as it seeks to target solicitors it believes are working with trafficking gangs. Section 63 of the Nationality and Borders Act 2022 has made it an offence to make a referral of a case of modern slavery in "bad faith".

"It is early days and we're looking at what our tactical options are," Richardson said. "When we are testing new legislation as well, we're often in a position of creating legal precedents. So that's why the process might take a long time."

According to official figures this month, 4,746 people were referred to the Home Office from January to March as potential victims of modern slavery – a rise of more than a quarter on the same period last year.

Servicewoman was 'forced to leave armed forces after being raped'

Dan Sabbagh
Defence and security editor

A junior servicewoman said she was a victim of rape and forced to leave the armed forces while her abuser was protected, according to whistleblower testimony published by a parliamentary committee yesterday.

Her story is one of eight cases revealing ongoing rape and sexual abuse in the military, collected by forces' medical teams and sent to a Commons defence select committee, inquiring into women's experience of serving in the armed forces.

The accounts demonstrate that the British military exhibits a "wider culture of institutional misogyny" despite repeated promises of reform, according to the committee's chair, Sarah Atherton MP.

The junior servicewoman, "performing far above her junior level", was raped on base by someone with whom she had been in a casual relationship and was at first hesitant to report what had happened "for fear of recriminations".

Nevertheless, she approached a military GP who advised her to "choose her partners more carefully in future". It took a second doctor to persuade her to report the incident to her chain of command.

That led to no action being taken, however. Senior officers decided, in consultation with the second doctor, it was necessary "for the career of the rapist and the elite unit he served in" to keep him in place. As a result, the woman was "moved across country, out of that elite unit, against her will", while she waited more than a year for mental health treatment. When that arrived she was medically discharged also, she said, "against her will".

The woman's case is the most serious of the eight compiled but the others include cases of sexual assault and abuse in the past two years, and repeated examples of senior officers dismissing complaints or failing to take them seriously.

Women make up 11.4% of the British military and since 2016 no role in the military is closed to women.



▲ *The servicewoman said her abuser was protected and stayed in the unit*

Male GPs less likely to refer patients for IVF amid confusing eligibility rules, report finds

Hannah Devlin
Science correspondent

Male GPs in England are less likely to refer eligible patients for IVF, research by a fertility charity suggests, raising concerns about access to NHS-funded treatment.

The report, by Progress Educational Trust (Pet), highlights "utter confusion" and a lack of knowledge among GPs about eligibility criteria for NHS-funded treatment, which it says is exacerbating an IVF "postcode lottery". GPs typically make the initial referral to fertility clinics, meaning they have a crucial role in access.

"For NHS treatment, GPs are the main initial gatekeeper. If you're not getting pregnant, that's who you go to for advice and support," said Sarah Norcross, the director of Pet. "It struck me that when people have a known cause of fertility, male GPs still weren't passing them on."

The report is based on a survey of 200 GPs and commissioners across England, carried out by an independent research company, which investigated knowledge of national fertility guidelines and the criteria GPs use for referral decisions.

The findings come as the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (Nice) is reviewing its fertility guidelines, which have not been updated in 20 years. It currently recommends that women under 40 should be offered up to three full cycles of IVF on the NHS, if they or their partner have infertility.

However, GPs are constrained by local criteria, set by commissioning groups, of which only around 10% meet the Nice guidelines. Many areas offer only one funded IVF cycle.

Even given regional variation, the Pet report suggest GPs are sometimes not referring eligible patients, and it found that a doctor's age and gender could play a role.

In the case of a known cause of infertility or reduced fertility, which would automatically make a patient eligible under Nice guidelines, 52% of male GPs said that they would refer for treatment compared with 73% of female GPs. For patients who had tried to get pregnant through unprotected sex for one year, 57% of male GPs said they would refer compared with 66% of female GPs. Younger and less experienced GPs were also more likely to refer patients for IVF.

"These survey results show that there is utter confusion over the current Nice fertility guidelines," said Norcross. "This is making the postcode lottery worse."

The survey found a majority of GPs (54%) said they had seen access requirements set by local commissioning groups becoming more restrictive in the past two years.

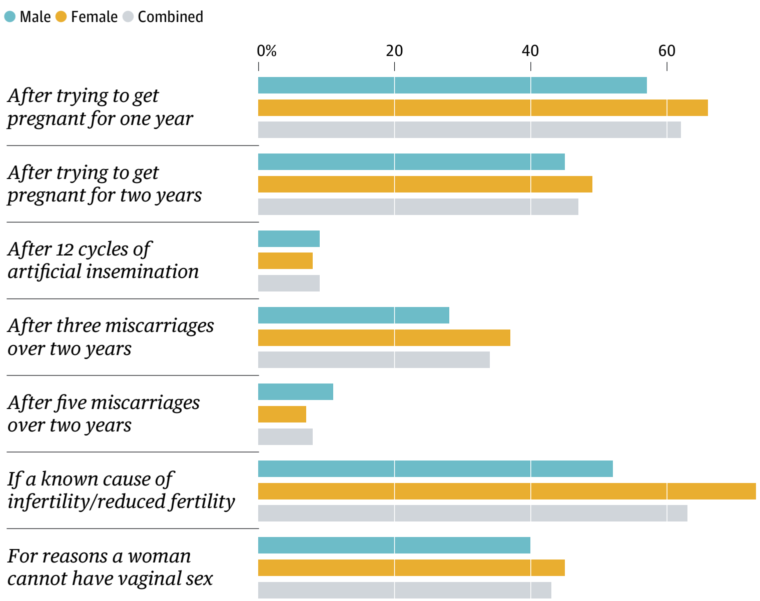
"Sadly, we have seen a huge drop in support for people requiring fertility treatment," said Prof Adam Balen, of the University of Leeds. "There is a huge lack of knowledge about testing despite clear national guidelines."

Prof Kamila Hawthorne, the chair of the Royal College of GPs, said: "It is clear that the complexity of fertility treatment pathways across the country, and how this relates to Nice guidance, can cause confusion and this needs to be addressed."

Hawthorne added that the criteria by which GPs refer patients are set by local integrated care boards (ICBs), which in many areas do not align with Nice guidance. "In England, it is ICBs that determine how many cycles of IVF can be offered to a patient on the NHS, not GPs," she said.

Male GPs appear less likely to refer patients for IVF

Triggers for GPs to refer women under 40 for NHS-funded IVF



Source: Progress Educational Trust. Note: Sample size = 194 GPs (85 male, 107 female and 2 not specified - the 2 not specified are included in the 'Combined' figures in the chart)





▲ *An angel leading a soul into hell: an oil painting by a follower of Hieronymus Bosch, circa 1540*
PHOTOGRAPH: PETER HORREE/ALAMY

Young Britons more likely than baby boomers to believe in hell, poll reveals

Harriet Sherwood

You may think the idea of hellfire belongs to an age when people's lives were shaped by the threat of eternal damnation.

Wrong, it seems: generation Z and millennials in the UK are significantly more likely to believe in hell than baby boomers, according to a new study by the Policy Institute at King's College London. Younger people are also more likely to believe in life after death than older generations, despite being less religious generally.

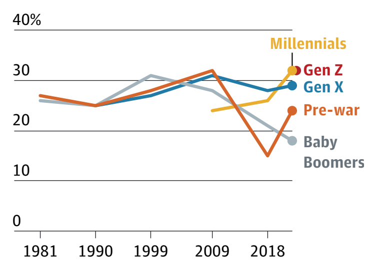
The findings are part of the World Values Study, one of the largest academic social surveys in the world, which has been running for more than 40 years.

According to its data, just under half (49%) of Britons said they believed in God, down from 75% in 1981. Only five countries – Norway, South Korea, Japan, Sweden and China – are less likely to believe in God than the UK. The Philippines topped the league table, scoring 100%.

Belief in heaven among the UK public has also fallen, from 57% in 1981 to 41% last year. But belief in hell and in life after death has remained largely consistent, at 26% and 46% respectively.

When broken down by age, 32% of those under the age of about 40 said they believed in hell, compared with 18% of those aged between 59 and 77. Belief in life after death was 51-53% for younger generations, compared with 35-39% for older people.

Younger generations are more likely to believe in hell
% who believe hell exists, by generation



Source: World Values Survey, The Policy Institute, King's College London

"Our cultural attachment to organised religion has continued to decline in the UK – but our belief that there is something beyond this life is holding strong, including among the youngest generations," said Bobby Duffy, director of the Policy Institute.

"While the youngest generations continue to have lower attachment to formal religion, many of them have similar or even greater need to believe that there is 'more than this'." Duffy said that "cultural Christianity" had significantly declined among people born in the UK, although "globally, religion is still a growth market".

Britons are among the least religious of all countries in the survey, with the 24-country league table topped by Nigeria, Indonesia, the Philippines, Iran, Greece and Poland. In the UK, one in three said they were a "religious person", 46% said they were not religious, and 21% said they were atheist – up from 4% in 1981.

David Voas, professor of social science at University College London, said: "Adults under 40 are much more likely than older people to call themselves atheists, but also to say that they believe in hell, which is a fascinating puzzle."

The UK is among the most tolerant of the countries surveyed, with 82% of the public saying they trust people of a different religion. Only Sweden scored higher on tolerance.

Twelve per cent of people in the UK agreed with the statement "the only acceptable religion is my religion", compared with 90% of Moroccans.

Only people in South Korea and China said they prayed less often than Britons, almost two-thirds of whom said they prayed rarely or never.

Another unexpected finding is that confidence in religious institutions had rebounded. Between 1981 and 2018, Britons' confidence in churches and religious organisations fell from 49% to 31%, but by 2022 had risen again to 42%.

A possible explanation is the provision by churches and other religious institutions of essential social services such as food banks, social hubs, warm spots and debt counselling as the cost of living crisis has escalated.

Duffy said religious belief in the UK was unlikely to disappear, but would keep eroding. "It looks like a slow but inevitable decline, unless organised religions can engage with that broader sense of wanting something else beyond this life," he said.

49%
Proportion of Britons who said they believed in God, down from 75% among those surveyed in 1981

32%
Proportion of under-40s who said they believed in hell, compared with 18% for people aged 59-77

Corbyn tells local Labour party: I want to carry on as your MP

Aubrey Allegretti
Senior political correspondent

A defiant Jeremy Corbyn has told Labour members in his Islington North branch that he wants to carry on as their MP, after a motion by the local party supporting him was passed almost unanimously.

The former Labour leader, who has been barred from standing for the party again at the next election and faces a choice about whether to run as an independent, gave no sign of wanting to give up his job.

A motion thanking Corbyn for his "commitment and service to the people" and saying it was members' "democratic right to select our MP" was passed by 98% of those in attendance at the local party's monthly general meeting on Wednesday.

There were 60 members who backed the motion, one abstention and no votes against, according to a spokesperson for Corbyn.

Corbyn continues to sit as an independent MP in parliament after Labour's national executive committee in March backed a proposal from Keir Starmer not to endorse him as a candidate at the next election.

The statement about his desire to continue as an MP will fuel speculation that he could still seek to contest the seat he has held for 40 years. However, running as an independent would probably result in Corbyn being expelled from Labour. He has previously criticised the move to block him from standing as the party's candidate, calling it a "shameful attack on party democracy".

Starmer has sought to signal a total overhaul of the Labour party since Corbyn's leadership, and distance himself as much as possible from the man he served under as shadow Brexit secretary. Citing the issues over antisemitism under Corbyn, Starmer has repeatedly told those unhappy with his changes that they are not welcome in Labour any longer and should leave.

But the moves risk inflaming tensions with Corbyn's allies and others on the left who fear internal party democracy is being stifled.

Earlier this year, Starmer heralded the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) taking Labour out of special measures as a watershed moment and an endorsement of efforts to tackle antisemitism since he took over as leader in 2020.

It was Corbyn's response to a report by the EHRC, and his accusation that opponents and the media had "overstated" issues with antisemitism, that first led to his suspension from the party in October 2020.

In a statement yesterday, Corbyn said: "I have spent the past 40 years campaigning alongside my community for a mass redistribution of wealth, ownership and power. That is what I'll continue to do."

Kissing is 1,000 years older than thought, say scientists

Mabel Banfield-Nwachi

The earliest record of humans kissing dates back about 4,500 years in the ancient Middle East, which is 1,000 years earlier than previously thought, according to researchers.

Scientists have highlighted evidence that suggests kissing was practised in some of the earliest Mesopotamian societies, and had been documented in ancient texts from 2500BC but largely overlooked.

Although research had concluded that friendly or familial kissing has been common human behaviour across time and cultures, romantic or sexual kissing was not thought to be universal. Writing in the journal Science, however, researchers said their findings suggest human lip-kissing was an ordinary part of romantic intimacy in ancient times across many cultures and did not originate in a specific region, as earlier research had proposed.

A previous hypothesis suggested the earliest evidence of kissing came from south Asia, in what would be modern-day India, in around 1500BC.

Ancient Mesopotamian texts suggest that kissing was something that married couples did, and that kissing was also seen as a part of an unmarried person's sexual desire when in love.

Dr Troels Pank Arboll, an expert on the history of medicine in Mesopotamia at the University of Copenhagen, said: "In ancient Mesopotamia, which is the name for the early human cultures that existed between the Euphrates and Tigris rivers in present-day Iraq and Syria, people wrote in cuneiform [wedge-shaped marks] script on clay tablets.

"Many thousands of these clay tablets have survived to this day, and they contain clear examples that kissing was considered a part of romantic intimacy in ancient times, just as kissing could be part of friendships and family members' relations.

"Therefore, kissing should not be regarded as a custom that originated exclusively in any single region and spread from there, but rather appears to have been practised in multiple ancient cultures over several millennia."



▲ *Romantic kissing was not always believed to be culturally universal*

UK unveils new Russia sanctions as PM urges India to back Ukraine

Continued *from page 1*

that brutal violence and coercion does not reap rewards".

Before landing in Hiroshima, along with his wife, Akshata Murty, her first attendance on an official No 10 trip, Sunak said he hoped to stress the extent of Russian war crimes to leaders from non-G7 nations including Modi and Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, the Brazilian president.

"One thing we have to keep doing is talking to countries like India and also Brazil. That is going to be in that second part of the summit, which is a good thing," Sunak said. "One of my three things is talking to countries around the world and making sure they realise what is going on, the war crimes Russia is committing inside Ukraine and why everyone should support bringing about a peaceful resolution to the conflict.

"That's what [Ukraine's] President Zelenskiy wants, that's what we want, and putting pressure on Russia to withdraw their forces so we can get to that outcome, that's the consistent message that I will be taking to countries all around the world."

Sunak and Modi will meet, but by last night it had not been confirmed that this would be a formal bilateral meeting.

Given the UK imposed punishing tariffs of 35% on diamonds and metals from Russia last year, massively reducing trade, the outright ban could prove largely symbolic unless it takes place in conjunction with other nations. The EU has previously stopped short of banning diamonds owing to the importance of the sector to Antwerp in Belgium. It is expected to instead call for better tracing technology for Russian diamonds, which earned Russians €4.5bn in 2021.

Iron, steel, gas, oil and coal imports from Russia to the UK are all already banned.

As well as discussing Ukraine, the assembled world leaders, among them Joe Biden, will hold talks on Indo-Pacific security in light of China's threat to Taiwan, as well as nuclear disarmament, a key subject for Fumio Kishida, the Japanese prime minister, in Hiroshima.

Sunak is the first British prime minister to visit the city, which was destroyed by a US atomic bomb in 1945. The leaders are expected to visit Hiroshima's Peace Memorial Museum, which details the destruction that led to 140,000 deaths by the end of that year.

In comments released before the summit, Sunak explicitly linked Hiroshima's past to Russia's actions in Ukraine. "For the sake of global peace and security, we must show that brutal violence and coercion does not reap rewards," he said.

"As today's sanctions announcements demonstrate, the G7 remains unified in the face of the threat from Russia and steadfast in our support for Ukraine. We are meeting today in Hiroshima, a city that exemplifies both the horrors of war and the dividends of peace."

The summit, which follows Sunak's address to the Council of Europe summit in Reykjavík, is a chance for the prime minister to look beyond domestic woes following the Tories' terrible results in this month's local elections, which saw the party exceed even its deliberately gloomy pre-poll forecast of 1,000 losses.

Even heading to the G7, however, Sunak was not immune, facing criticism for being out of touch after telling reporters on the flight to Japan that people's household incomes were "hugely outperforming" expectations and there were "lots of signs that things are moving in the right direction" with the economy.

Sunak met Kishida for dinner last night after signing a defence pact agreement that the UK and Japan would consult each other on major military decisions. The summit is set to discuss the Chinese threat towards Taiwan amid increasing belligerence from Beijing.

The prime minister also held a business reception for UK and Japanese companies, with Sunak claiming around £18bn of investment had been pledged.

Summit specialities
Local dishes on the menu

G7 leaders will need gargantuan appetites when they meet in Hiroshima, where they will be treated to multi-course menus featuring regional produce.

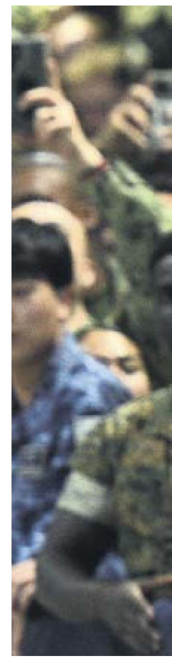
The provisional menus will include *okonomiyaki*, a signature Hiroshima dish, and oysters, another local delicacy. Tomorrow, the working lunch will feature marinated salmon, Japanese rockfish and chicken ballotine, with a lemon semifreddo served with citrus cream and sake lees.

Dinner, at a traditional *ryokan* inn on the nearby island of Miyajima, will open with a selection of seafood from the Seto inland sea, followed by a clear sea bream soup, with the main course of Hiroshima beef and eel sushi. A selection of traditional Hiroshima sweets will form the dessert.

Justin McCurry *Osaka*







'A hard dividing line' Countries split on wisdom of humiliating Moscow

Patrick Wintour
Diplomatic editor

In the horrific shadow of a past nuclear holocaust, the leaders of the G7 group of wealthiest nations will meet in Hiroshima in Japan this weekend to discuss war: how to prosecute one in Ukraine and how to prevent one with China.

Jake Sullivan, the US national security adviser, once described the G7 as the coordinating committee of the free world, and never has there been such a need for such coordination. It was only in October that Joe Biden warned that the risk of a nuclear Armageddon was at its highest in 60 years.

The chance of Vladimir Putin resorting to nuclear weapons appears to have receded since then, partly due to Chinese warnings to the Kremlin, but few can predict how Russia will react if Ukraine's counteroffensive succeeds.

A lightning visit by President Volodymyr Zelenskiy to four G7 countries - Italy, Germany, France and the UK - underscored how European powers have coalesced in recent weeks, in terms of their military strategy in Ukraine. Before the counteroffensive, Europe's military commitments have strengthened, especially in Germany, where the size of the package was of a different order to before. The provision of fighter planes seems inevitable, if not immediate. Sanctions enforcement, a preserve of the G7, will also be tightened.

But the G7 is divided, or unclear, on two issues - the wisdom and plausibility of Russia's total military humiliation, and how to convince the global south that the new order that will emerge from this war can be shaped in their interests. On both issues, the credibility of the west is on the line.

The degree to which the hawks in New Europe see a Russian surrender as not just morally right but necessary was on full display at a security conference last weekend in Estonia. Speaker after speaker contended the visible demise of the Russian military, and Ukraine's eventual membership of Nato, have become the essential precondition of Europe's future security.

A Ukrainian former defence minister, Andriy Zagorodnyuk, argued: "The political goal of our coalition is that Russia cannot get out of this conflict thinking it has succeeded - that destroys the whole purpose. It needs to fail and fail dramatically."

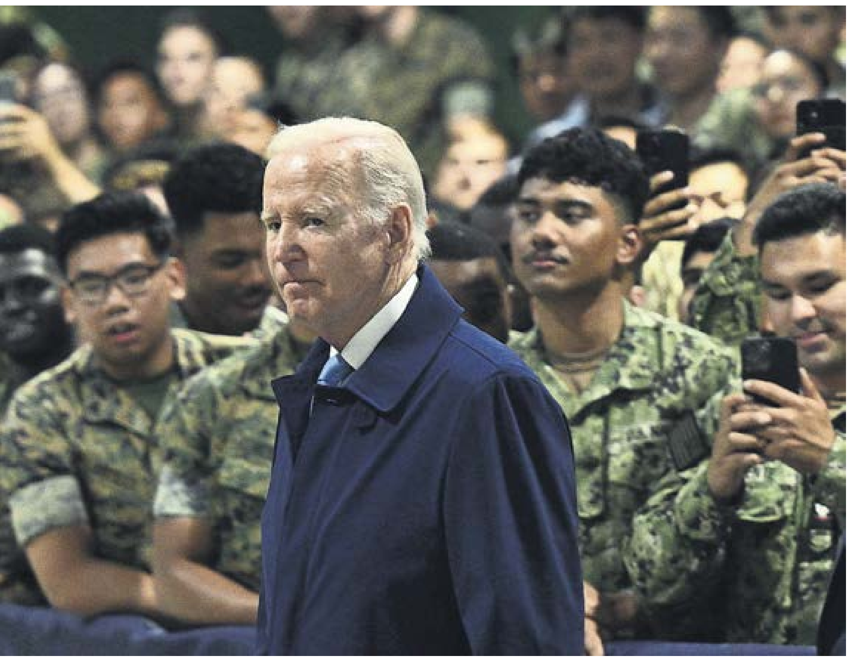
Krišjānis Kariņš, Latvia's prime minister, said: "Russia started a war of conquest and it has killed innocent people. We do not need to humiliate Russia but we do need to punish it for what it has done."

Ingrida Šimonytė, Lithuania's prime minister, said "to have true peace would require a profound defeat like 1945 in Germany that would begin the process of internal change in Russia".

The Estonian prime minister, Kaja Kallas, argued accountability for the Russian leadership at The Hague would have an educational value for the Russian people,

◀ *Rishi Sunak being honoured at Yokosuka naval base in Japan; below, the German chancellor, Olaf Scholz, arrives with his wife, Britta Ernst; bottom, Joe Biden visits the US Marines base at Iwakuni*
PHOTOGRAPHS: STEFAN ROUSSEAU/AFP; MICHAEL KAPPELER/AVALON; BRENDAN SMIALOWSKI/AFP





prompting the historian Timothy Garton Ash to recall a speech by the then German president, Richard von Weizsacker, marking 40 years since the second world war, in which he said Germany's rebirth was dependent on its ability to look truth, and its own guilt, in the eye.

This was a view not just confined to vengeful Balts or Ukrainians; the German ambassador to Poland, Thomas Bagger, largely concurred.

For the future, he said, the west would from now on have to be organised against Russia. "Putin has answered for us. We will have a hard dividing line."

Perhaps the point was put most forcefully by Eliot Cohen, a former US deputy national security adviser, when he said the west required a theory of victory. "The most difficult thing we have to do is not about helping Ukraine to prevail: we have to think about defeating Russia. That is a hard thing for us to wrap our heads around. It does not require marching into Moscow. It does require shattering Russian forces on the territory of Ukraine. Most importantly, it requires destroying the Russian confidence that the military arm can achieve anything that it wants."

But not everyone shares that theory of victory. Emmanuel Macron, the French president, has repeatedly said Russia must not be humiliated, and that anyway Russia has already lost, albeit geopolitically. Requiring Russia's total collapse would either prolong the war, or lead to escalation.

So far Biden has skilfully avoided taking sides in such arguments, preferring a strategy of one step at a time. But in private, Biden will be pressed by his G7 colleagues to stop hiding behind the convenient construct that it is for Ukraine to define what constitutes victory.

Japan's prime minister, Fumio Kishida, will probably try to steer the debate to a discussion of what the war in Ukraine has exposed about fractured relations between G7 nations and the global south.

Kishida visited four African countries in March promising to mobilise $75bn for infrastructure in the global south by 2030. To dilute the image of an exclusive rich man's club, he has invited countries ranging from Brazil and India to the tiny Cook Islands in the South Pacific, to bring their perspective. But another diplomatic surge, or more largesse, cannot drag fence sitters from their vantage point.

Fiona Hill, the former US state department official, gripped the audience in Estonia when she said: "This has not, as Vladimir Putin and others claim, become a proxy war between the United States or the 'collective west' against Russia. In the current geopolitical arena, the war is now effectively the reverse - a proxy for a rebellion by Russia and the 'rest' against the United States. The so-called 'rest' of the world seek to cut the US down to a different size in their neighbourhoods and exert more influence in global affairs.

"They want to decide, not be told, what's in their interest. In short, in 2023, we hear a resounding no to US domination and see a marked appetite for a world without a hegemon."

Monica Juma, the national security adviser to the president of Kenya, which has voted with the west against Russia at the UN security council, says there has to be a reckoning between the global south and the west. Africa, like Europe, she says, wants to have an existential conversation, but Africa's conversation is about hunger, debt, climate and access to financial markets that are rigged against the developing world. But it is easier to analyse the impasse between the west and the rest than to solve it.

What the coming three days in Hiroshima will reveal is whether any politician in the US or Europe is thinking deeply enough about the scale of what is required to regain the global south's trust.



◀ *Socking it to each other: Rishi Sunak and Japan's prime minister, Fumio Kishida, compare their footwear*
PHOTOGRAPH: STEFAN ROUSSEAU/PA

Japan Defence and trade top agenda before G7 summit

Rowena Mason
Tokyo

Rishi Sunak arrived in Tokyo yesterday to announce a new defence partnership with Japan and to support £18bn of business deals, before the G7 summit aimed at addressing the threats of Russia and China.

Before the gathering of world leaders in Hiroshima today, Sunak is meeting Japan's prime minister, Fumio Kishida, to discuss more defence cooperation in the face of China's increasing belligerence towards Taiwan.

They will unveil a pact, the Hiroshima accord, which involves a duty to consult each other on some military decisions and further exercises in the Indo-Pacific by the Carrier Strike Group, a Royal Navy unit.

Sunak is understood to view Japan as strategically important and a like-minded country that shares his interest in technology and innovation.

The pair will discuss the supply of semiconductors - for cars, smartphones, medical devices and other gadgets - at a time of concern about reliance on production in Taiwan when it is facing a threat from China.

Yesterday, Sunak also visited a naval base and then hosted a UK business summit in Tokyo for Japanese corporations, including Toshiba, Sumitomo and Mitsubishi, claiming they were committing £18bn of investment to the UK in windfarms, property and other projects.

However, he was pressed about the attractiveness of the UK for businesses after a leading carmaker said Brexit was proving an obstacle.

Speaking to broadcasters, he said: "It's something that car manufacturers across Europe, not just in the UK, have raised as a concern. And as a result of that we are engaged in a dialogue with the EU about how we might address those concerns. I'm going to meet the chief executive of Nissan later today … they've invested a billion pounds in the north-east for electric vehicle manufacturing.

"Other Japanese business leaders are meeting today to announce a total investment of £18bn into the UK and part of that is coming because we've joined the trans-Pacific trade partnership that opens up opportunities for British car manufacturers and creates more jobs at home."

Defending himself against criticism that his optimism about the economy was not being felt at home, he said: "I know things are tough right now but there are signs things are improving. A vote of confidence from Japanese companies creating jobs at home. That's good for the UK."

On his trip to the G7 Sunak is being accompanied by his wife, Akshata Murty, on their first official visit since he entered No 10.

Sunak is likely to have one-to-one meetings with the French president, Emmanuel Macron, and the Indian prime minister, Narendra Modi.

However, No 10 is not expecting Sunak to meet bilaterally with the US president, Joe Biden, whose trip to Asia for the summit is being curtailed over uncertainty surrounding the American debt ceiling.

Sunak's other priority will be pressing other world leaders to keep up support for Ukraine.

Brexit Sunak says Britain in talks over car trade rules

Jasper Jolly

Rishi Sunak has said the UK is in talks with the EU over Brexit rules that could make some electric cars more expensive, after Germany's automotive industry joined other leading carmakers in calling for more time.

Germany's main automotive lobby group, the VDA, joined calls yesterday for an extension of a Brexit trade deadline for three years to avoid a 10% price rise on electric vehicles that cross the Channel to the UK.

The Brexit trade deal contained "rules of origin" intended to spur the creation of domestic electric car battery industries to ensure the region does not remain dependent on Asian imports. However, new factories have not sprung up quickly enough, so some carmakers may face the prospect of tariffs on exports in January.

Speaking at the G7 summit in Japan, the prime minister signalled the UK would be willing to reopen part of the trade deal to give carmakers more time.

"It's something that car manufacturers across Europe, not just in the UK, have raised as a concern," Sunak said, according to Bloomberg News. "We are engaged in a dialogue with the EU about how we might address those concerns when it comes to auto manufacturing more generally."

The VDA said: "It is now urgent to adjust" the deal because tariffs would represent "a significant competitive disadvantage for the European car industry in relation to its Asian competitors in the so important UK market". Tariffs would slow down the shift to electric cars, it argued.

Carmakers have had two years to prepare for the deadline, but the flurry of lobbying was triggered by Stellantis, the owner of brands including Vauxhall, Fiat and Peugeot, telling a UK parliamentary committee that it needed more time to source batteries from Europe. Under the rules all cars exported from the UK to EU or vice versa must source 40% of their parts by value from countries within the trade deal. However, that proportion is due to rise on 1 January to 45%, and in 2027 it will rise to 55%.

As most batteries are imported from China, South Korea and Japan, and make up a large part of an electric car's cost, those made in the UK and EU are likely to fall foul of the rules.

Two teenagers jailed for life for stabbing boy, 15, to death in Huddersfield

Mark Brown
North of England correspondent

A mother has called for an end to teenage knife violence as two boys who murdered her 15-year-old son as he walked home from school were given life sentences.

Khayri Mclean was murdered as he walked with friends in Huddersfield at 2.50pm on 21 September last year. Cousins Jakele Pusey, 15, and Jovani Harriott, 17, had changed into black clothes and black balaclavas and were hiding, waiting to ambush him. Leeds crown court was played CCTV footage of them leaping out and stabbing the boy before making their escape.

Khayri was helped to his feet by friends and started making his way back to school, but collapsed. It was the end of the school day and children were "teeming out" at the point where he lay bleeding on the pavement, the court heard.

He was helped by a passing doctor and paramedics before being taken to hospital in Leeds but died two and a half hours later.

Jailing the boys, the judge, Mrs Justice Farbey, said she was not clear what the motivation was, but it may have been gang-related. Jonathan Sandiford KC, for the prosecution, suggested the motive was revenge.

In a pre-sentence report Harriott referred to a friend of Khayri's breaking a window at his mother's house. "The reason for targeting Khayri was that he had shared a video of that incident on social media," said Sandiford.

Pusey, who struck the fatal blow to Khayri's chest, admitted murder. He was sentenced to a minimum of 16 years. Harriott, who stabbed Khayri in the leg, had denied murder but was found guilty by a jury. He was sentenced to a minimum of 18 years.

The court was read a victim impact statement from Charlie Mclean, Khayri's mother, who described her son as a big Manchester United fan who enjoyed playing rugby league. When he was older he wanted to be an engineer, she said. Khayri had been helpless when he was attacked, she said. "The fear he went through when he realised he'd been stabbed and was bleeding to death will stay with me forever," she added.

"I never got to say goodbye. I am living a nightmare. I can hardly function and I have changed as a person. When I wake up, on the occasions I've managed to sleep, it hits me like a ton of bricks again and again. I am in tears on a daily basis."

She said she asks herself what has been achieved by her son's death. "What has my son died for? Nobody has won in this situation. I have lost a child and other parents have lost two sons.

"This violence has to stop, carrying weapons has to stop. I've lost my son. I would not wish this upon anyone else."

Harriott has denied being part of a gang or that the murder of Khayri was gang-related. "However, the Crown submits those contentions are at odds both with the very nature of the offence and the circumstances in which it was committed," said Sandiford. The attack was premeditated and carefully planned involving the use of another schoolboy as a "spotter", he added.

The court heard Pusey was shot by masked men in a gang incident when he was 12. He suffers flashbacks and lost two years of schooling. His family had recently been evicted and he was living in a hotel. He admitted to probation officers that he had a history of gang-related criminality. A report concluded that "violence against opposing gang members was the norm … the life he lived".

The defence counsel, Mohammed Nawaz KC, said Harriott was proving to be a model student in detention and had shown "genuine and real remorse for this event".

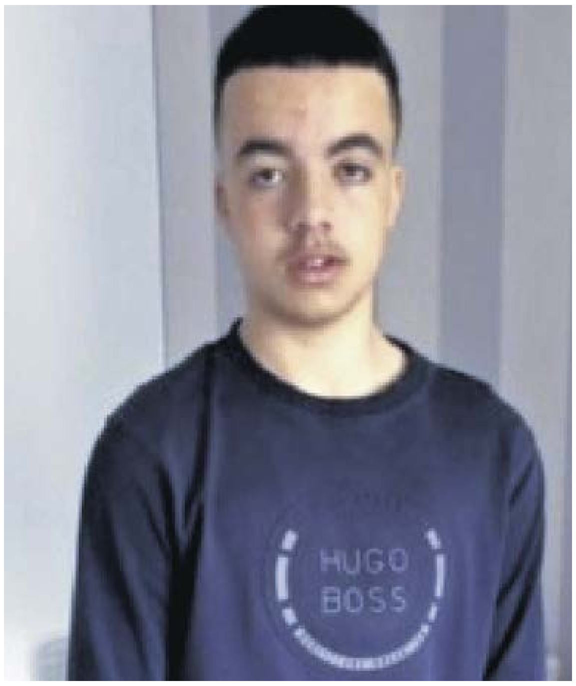
Family and friends of Khayri sat in the jury box for the sentencing hearing yesterday wearing matching T-shirts featuring his picture.

The defendants have previously not been named because of their age. An application for anonymity orders to be lifted was granted following submissions from the Press Association and the BBC.

The judge said the principles of open justice outweighed welfare arguments for the two defendants, both of Huddersfield.

Det Supt Marc Bowes of West Yorkshire police, who led the investigation, said it was a crime which shocked people across the UK.

"It will be hard for many of us to comprehend how what appears to have been a relatively low level dispute has resulted in these males stabbing a fellow student to death at the end of an otherwise ordinary school day."



◀ *Khayri Mclean, 15, had wanted to be an engineer and enjoyed playing rugby league, his mother said*
PICTURE: WYP/UNPIXS



▼ *Charlie Mclean said she was 'living a nightmare'*
PHOTOGRAPH: DANNY LAWSON/PA WIRE





◀ *Jovani Harriott, 17, (top) and his cousin Jakele Pusey, 15, (below) ambushed Khayri before stabbing him, Leeds crown court heard*

RMT union to hold rail strike across England on day before FA Cup final

Gwyn Topham
Transport correspondent

The RMT union has announced another rail strike for Friday 2 June, the day before the men's FA Cup final, warning that ministers "cannot wish the dispute away".

About 20,000 RMT members working for the 14 major passenger firms in England will strike for 24 hours in the long-running dispute over pay and conditions. It falls between two days of strikes called by the drivers' union Aslef on 31 May and 3 June, compounding the disruption for passengers ahead of the final at Wembley between Manchester City and Manchester United on the Saturday.

The union said that while there had been contact with the train operators' body, the Rail Delivery Group, since the last strike was called, there had been no new proposals. The package rejected in April had not significantly improved since the offer was rejected in February, a headline increase of 9% over two years but with conditions attached and only a short-term guarantee against job cuts.

Train managers and catering crew and station staff will strike. It is likely to have less impact on trains than the Aslef action or earlier RMT strikes including Network Rail staff, but will significantly disrupt most services around England and some cross-border services into Scotland and Wales.

The RMT's general secretary, Mick Lynch, blamed the government for refusing to allow rail negotiators to make an offer it could consider. He said: "Ministers cannot just wish this dispute away. They underestimate the strength of feeling [among] our members who have just given us a new six-month strike mandate, continue to support the campaign and the action and are determined to see this through until we get an acceptable resolution.

"The government now needs to unlock the RDG and allow them to make an offer that can be put to a referendum of our members."

A Rail Delivery Group spokesperson said its last proposal was "agreed line by line with their negotiating team, which would have resolved this dispute and given our lowest paid staff a rise of up to 13%".

They added: "By calling more strike action the RMT leadership have chosen to prolong this dispute without ever giving their members a chance to have a say on their own offer. Instead, they will be subject to yet more lost pay through industrial action, customers will suffer more disruption, and the industry will continue to suffer huge damage."

The RDG said it was willing to continue talks. Separately, the TSSA union has called off a planned one-day strike next Wednesday on the Elizabeth line.

Critics condemn 'inappropriate' £161.7m cost of queen's funeral

Kevin Rawlinson

The events to mark the death of Queen Elizabeth II last year cost the public an estimated £161.7m, according to the Treasury.

A 10-day period of national mourning, culminating in the monarch's funeral, was announced after her death on 8 September last year. About 250,000 people attended the lying-in-state and more than 29 million people watched the funeral on television in the UK.

Critics said the extravagance of the event was inappropriate at a time when many people were struggling with their basic needs and unable to pay their bills.

"There is an assumption that these things have to be done on this scale and that's an assumption that needs to be questioned – particularly in the middle of a cost-of-living crisis," said Graham Smith, the chief executive of Republic. Government ministers have argued that the commemorations needed to reflect the event's national importance.

But Smith said that when people "can't put food on the table – even though they are in work – they would probably derive more from a hot meal" than from the pageantry.

Events were held in all nations of the UK and the chief secretary to the Treasury, John Glen, submitted an estimated cost of £161.7m in a written statement to parliament.

Glen broke down the cost per government department. The Home Office spent the most, £73.68m, followed by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, on £57.42m; and the Scottish government, with costs of £18.75m. The breakdown also included:

- Department for Transport: £2.565m.
- Foreign Office: £2.096m.
- Ministry of Defence: £2.890m.
- Northern Ireland Office: £2.134m.
- Welsh government: £2.202m.

Glen said the costs included only money spent specifically on the events. A No 10 spokesperson said: "Of course, for a major international event of this scale, we wanted to ensure that we could enable people to pay their respects."

At the time, officials said the logistics were equivalent to organising hundreds of state visits all at once.

'Unapologetic and direct': Wet Leg hailed songwriters of the year at Ivor Novello awards



◀ Raye won best contemporary song for Escapism, which she performed live at yesterday's awards ceremony
PHOTOGRAPH: C BRANDON/REDFERNS

Safi Bugel

Wet Leg have been named songwriters of the year at 2023's Ivor Novello awards, which honour the best in British songwriting.

Rhian Teasdale and Hester Chambers, the duo who front the indie rockers, were hailed by the Ivors judges for songwriting that was "fresh, unapologetic and direct, with surprising melodies that demand attention".

The pair's rise has been one of the most meteoric in recent British music history: totally unknown prior to their debut single Chaise Longue, the song's insistently catchy chants and riffs wowed indie and pop fans alike. Early festival gigs drew raucously overstuffed crowds, and a string of equally loved songs – Wet Dream, Angelica, Ur Mum and more – carried their self-titled debut album to a UK No 1, as well as a No 1 in Australia and a place in the US Top 20.

Their Ivors win is the latest in a series of garlands this year, adding to two Brit awards and – a real rarity for an alternative British act – two Grammys. "The real wins are when you do a good gig or when you make a good song," Teasdale told the Guardian in December 2022. "That is why you're doing it, not for these awards, these mysterious overlords."

Hugely acclaimed neo-soul outfit Sault won the Ivor Novellos' best album award for 11, one of the five albums the group shared simultaneously last November, written by Dean "Inflo" Josiah Cover, Cleopatra Nikolic (AKA soul singer Cleo Sol), Jamar McNaughton and Jack Peñate. The win marks Inflo's fourth Ivor Novello award since 2017, having previously won for work with Michael Kiwanuka and Little Simz.

The visionary award was given to Charli XCX, "in recognition of the massive impact her musical vision has made on her fellow songwriters" – her knowingly glossy hyperpop sound, pairing classic songwriting with chaotic experimentation, has placed her at pop's vanguard in recent years.

Pop singer Raye – along with guest rapper 070 Shake and producer Mike Sabath – won best contemporary song for Escapism, which Raye performed live at the ceremony. The track, which found huge success after going viral on TikTok, marked the singer's first No 1 single in the UK, was certified platinum and reached the US Top 30. The judges described the song, the story of a drunken night out to escape feelings of heartbreak, as "daring".



▲ Wet Leg's Hester Chambers and Rhian Teasdale were praised for 'melodies that demand attention'
PHOTOGRAPH: ANDY HALL/THE GUARDIAN

Harry Styles, Kid Harpoon and Tyler Johnson won for most performed work: Styles's hit As It Was became the biggest song in the UK last year. It's the second time Styles has received the award, and his third Ivor Novello award overall – he also won songwriter of the year in 2021.

In total, 30 songwriters and composers collected Ivor Novello awards across 14 categories at the ceremony at London's Grosvenor House yesterday.

Best song musically and lyrically went to King by Florence + the Machine, which contemplates Florence Welch's own experiences of the tension between career and starting a family, as well as the gender expectations placed on women.

Breakout act Victoria Canal became the fourth consecutive female songwriter to win the rising star award since it was introduced in 2020. The judges complimented her "powerful songwriting".

With more than 40m records sold worldwide, a special international award celebrated the formidable career and influence of Blondie's Debbie Harry and Chris Stein.

Sting received the fellowship of the Ivors Academy, the highest honour the academy bestows, in recognition of his songwriting career. As frontman of the Police and as a solo artist, he has sold more than 100m albums; he performed the band's 1979 single Message in a Bottle at the ceremony. Sting has previously won seven Ivor Novello awards, including the lifetime achievement award in 2022.

John Powell won the award for best original film score for his work on Don't Worry Darling, Hannah Peel won best television soundtrack for her work on The Midwich Cuckoos, and Gareth Coker, Grant Kirkhope and Yoko Shimomura claimed best original video game score for Mario + Rabbids Sparks of Hope.

Songwriter Kamille was awarded outstanding song collection for her body of work, which includes collaborations with Little Mix and Dua Lipa.

Tom Gray, chair of the Ivors Academy, congratulated the winners: "When we choose to reward one of our number, when we recognise and validate their work, we are saying that as an Ivor Novello award winner, you represent the very best of us."

Music review

A band who are finally at ease with themselves

Blur: The Narcissist
Parlophone
★★★★☆

Alexis Petridis

There are two sides to Blur's sporadic reunions. There are the live shows – Glastonbury in 2009, a trawl around the world's festivals in 2012, a global arena tour in 2015 – which are reliably rapturously received. A chance, as Graham Coxon recently put it, to "revisit all those great songs", complete with a distinct emotional charge driven by nostalgia and the evidence that the once-fractured relationships within the band have been mended. And then there is the issue of recording and releasing new material.

By far the most adventurous band among Britpop's big league, it doesn't fit Blur's profile to reconstitute purely as a heartwarming exercise in nostalgia. But their recording process has been fraught since reforming in 2008. Blur reportedly have made three attempts at a new album, but only three songs emerged, as limited edition singles. Damon Albarn apparently called time on album sessions in 2012 during recording, much to the chagrin of the producer, William Orbit.

Perhaps the issue is the weight of expectation. Blur's two chief protagonists have pursued impressively eclectic solo paths. Under the circumstances, you can see why Blur chose to record a new album in secret, suddenly announcing it months after another set of reunion shows went on sale.

Entitled The Ballad of Darren and to be released on 21 July, Albarn has called it rather gnomically "an aftershock record; reflection and comment on where we find ourselves now".

The first track to be released from it, The Narcissist, is both less understated than the singles they released in 2012, and less confounding than Go Out, the largely tune-free, feedback-drenched track that heralded the arrival of 2015's The Magic Whip.



▲ The Narcissist is the first track from Blur's The Ballad of Darren

It is also more straightforward than that album's experimental moments. If you were forced at gunpoint to compare it to a 90s Blur single, you'd probably pick Coffee & TV.

Sung in call-and-response style – backing vocals repeating key words and phrases from each line – the lyrics seem to find Albarn in the same kind of self-examining mode that marked his 2014 solo album Everyday Robots. They are oblique enough to support a variety of interpretations, but one would definitely be that they concern Blur's career.

It's rather affecting, particularly when the lyrical focus appears to shift to the present. It certainly doesn't sound like a band torturing themselves to recapture something. In fact, it sounds like Blur have never been away.

SHOULDN'T DAIRY COWS GET MORE COW TIME?

We think so. When the weather's nice, the free range dairy cows that produce our fresh milk (including Essential Waitrose) spend over half their year grazing outdoors. And when the weather's bad, they can relax indoors, just like the rest of us. Find out more at waitrose.com/feelgoodabout



Waitrose own label products. Selected stores. Subject to availability. Minimum online spend and delivery charges apply.

Low-income households on shared heat networks face 350% rise in energy bills

Continued from page 1

MPs and local councillors said they were being contacted by distressed residents, and called on the energy watchdog, Ofgem, to intervene.

Simon Francis, coordinator of the End Fuel Poverty Coalition, said: "A lot of people on heat networks are among the most vulnerable households. They deserve greater protection from the worst of the energy crisis, not least because they do not have the ability to switch supplier. It's incredibly concerning to see these people facing huge increases to their bills."

Buildings with heat networks tend to use energy bought in advance. This means the price hikes experienced by most households last winter only started to affect buildings with communal heating last month, at the start of the new financial year. Meanwhile, the £400 given by the government to every household to cushion the blow last winter is no longer available.

Residents at the Bow Cross West housing association estate in east London said they had experienced increases of nearly 250%. They were told by the building owner, Swan Housing, the heating tariff would rise from 2p per kilowatt hour to 22p from mid-April. Standing charges, which are fixed and have to be paid even when no energy is used, have also increased. The changes mean the average heating bill will rise from about £16 a month to £57.



Southwyck House, a council block with a communal boiler where residents' energy bills have vastly risen PHOTOGRAPH: URBANIMAGES/ALAMY

More than 3,000 residents in council-run estates in Lambeth, south London, have seen huge rises in their heating charges for the current financial year since April. Tenants at Ward Point tower in Kennington have also been hit with a 350% increase, with some flats seeing the combined cost of heating and hot water rising from £680 to £3,000 a year.

The government's energy price guarantee, introduced to help households last winter, caps the average bill at about £2,500. However, it does not apply to homes on heating networks.

Heat network suppliers can apply for government help with costs, and are supposed to pass that through to consumers, but the system has been criticised as opaque, because bills do not always break down the taxpayer-funded discount.

In a statement, Lambeth council, which is under Labour party control, said: "Last year the council's long-term contracts meant we were able to keep costs low for residents, compared to the huge increases in prices for people with private heating. Unfortunately, these contracts are now over, and costs have increased in line with the bills that most people in the country have faced in the last year."

Lambeth said it had directed £8m in financial aid to residents since the start of the cost of living crisis, and was introducing a further £10m package, a portion of which was set aside for council tenants.

Residents at Bow Cross West said maintenance charges had also risen – by 83% since 2019 – and that the cladding scandal in the wake of the Grenfell Tower tragedy had made leasehold properties difficult to sell.

One owner-occupier, who asked not to be named, said: "I bought my flat during the pandemic and the communal heating network was touted as an energy and price efficient way to heat our homes.

"I've since seen my block's energy unit prices jump up by almost 1,000%, on top of cladding concerns that I found out about soon after moving in, which now makes my flat really difficult to mortgage and sell on. I'm basically stuck … I feel like I'm living a bit of a nightmare with all these bills."

The Guardian reported earlier this year that lawyers at Leigh Day were investigating the possibility of a legal claim on behalf of residents whose home heating and hot water was supplied through a heat network.

A spokesperson for Swan Housing Association said: "There has been a significant rise in heating costs nationally that has led to an increased charge to residents for communal energy. "To keep these costs as low as possible, we procure communal gas and electricity in advance through Laser Energy, securing a lower than domestic market price. We understand the pressure of rising costs of living and our dedicated welfare benefits team is available to support residents struggling to make payments."



Terminally ill Peter Shapcott, 67, uses a food pantry to stretch his money after service charge increases PHOTOGRAPH: JON CLEMENTS

'Costs have increased in line with the bills most people in the country have faced in the last year'
Lambeth council

A tenant's tale 'When you are on benefits, you are in a precarious position'

Peter Shapcott is sitting in his council flat in Brixton, south London. As he examines the bills that have come out of his bank account, he hovers his computer mouse over a screen to show how much money is left. The 67-year-old, who is terminally ill, has been paying his rent through credit in his account from overpaid water bills. He has £300 left, and now he must fund a steep rise in the service charge.

From April, weekly payments for rent and communal services such as heating, hot water and maintenance rose from £153 to £214 – leaving him scrabbling to find an extra £61 a week. The rise has been driven by a big increase in energy costs. Shapcott lives in Southwyck House, a Lambeth council block with a communal boiler. The heating charge for his two-bedroom flat is rising from about £11 to £37 a week – a 236% increase. Hot water will go up from £3.57 to £12.60 a week. He gets housing benefit, but this does not cover heating and hot water. The extra must come from his pension.

About 3,500 people living on Lambeth-run estates are in the same position. Many are facing service charge increases of £240 to £300 a month – a 350% rise.

Shapcott has lived in his flat for 40 years and was given a home by Lambeth when he was very ill with HIV. For that reason, the former charity worker does not "like to complain too much" about the council. He says the monthly rent is reasonable given the property size. But finances are tight and he is helped by a local food pantry. "When you are on benefits, you are in a precarious position," he said.

One of his neighbours, who asked not to be named, believes the rises are unaffordable. The 74-year-old gets a pension, which just about covers bills, and also visits the food pantry. "The rise monthly is big; some things have almost doubled. On top of that phone bills have gone up," she said.

"We don't know why the service charge has risen by so much. You're just presented with a massive bill."

Lambeth council said the war in Ukraine has driven global energy price rises to record levels, adding: "Last year the council's long-term contracts meant we were able to keep costs low for residents, compared [with] the huge increases in prices for people with private heating. Unfortunately, these contracts are now over, and costs have increased in line with the bills that most people in the country have faced in the last year."

It said it has been directing £8m in financial aid to those who need it most and was adding a further £10m, with some of those funds set aside for council tenants. **Sarah Marsh**



Default Private Accounts

Instagram accounts for teenagers are set to private by default, so what they post stays private to them and their followers.

Daily Time Limit

Helps you set healthy habits with your teenager by capping time spent on the app.

Supervision Tools

By setting up Supervision together, you can see who your teenager follows and who follows them back.

Explore these and our other tools and features like Sensitive Content Control, Education Hub and the Family Centre at **instagram.com/familytools**

▼ Year 6 students sitting their Sats. This year's reading paper was branded 'miserable' and too long
PHOTOGRAPH: CHRISTOPHER JONES/ALAMY



New York Times text featured in 'middle class, scary' Sats test

Sally Weale
Education correspondent

A primary school Sats paper that reduced some pupils to tears included texts adapted from a New York Times article on a giant bat colony, a camping trip featuring sheep rustlers, and a boy on a remote Scottish island who hears a wolf.

The 12-page reading test, featuring three substantial texts followed by 38 questions to be answered in an hour, was sat last week by 10- and 11-year-old pupils in year 6 in England, and was widely criticised by teachers and parents, who complained it was too difficult. Even children who excelled in practice papers were unable to finish the test.

The paper was published yesterday "due to public interest".

"Utterly miserable, scary and quite middle class," was the verdict of Sarah Hewitt-Clarkson, the headteacher of Anderton Park primary school in Birmingham. "Most of my kids, English is not their first language, but they're strong readers. They devour books, and yet this is how they will be judged," she said.

Much of the content of the set texts was totally unfamiliar, she said. Many pupils could not finish in the allotted hour, some were reduced to tears, and it was not just the children who were confounded. "One of my year 5 teachers said they didn't even know what a sheep rustler is," she said.

"If you have some background knowledge of the subject, of course it's going to put you at an advantage," added Hewitt-Clarkson, who said she was almost certain that none of her children had ever been camping.

"They've probably never seen a bat and they have certainly never been to Austin, Texas," she said referring to the second text adapted from a 2016 New York Times article about bats. She said it was "utterly ridiculous" that a text "aimed at 10- and 11-year-olds is taken from something that's adult readership level".

Simon Kidwell, the principal of Hartford Manor primary school in Cheshire, said the paper was too long, with the number of words running at "35% more in the reading booklet than the previous year".

"This is children's first experience of a formal test at the age of 10 and 11, and if they have a poor experience, that can affect the rest of their school career in terms of their attitudes towards tests," he said.

Kidwell, who is the vice-president of the National Association of Head Teachers, was also concerned about the sequencing of the questions. Normally tests begin with easier questions to help children settle down, and gradually get harder. This paper, he said, opened with three challenging questions, which required children to infer and explain, rather than simply retrieve answers from the text.

"We had a couple of children who got upset because they did not finish … Children went home and did not think they had done very well. It's knocked their confidence."

The schools minister, Nick Gibb, has said he plans to look at the paper following complaints from schools.

Gillian Hillier, chief executive of the Standards and Testing Agency, which developed the Sats tests over three years, said they had been tried out on thousands of pupils.

"All the tests are mapped to the key stage 2 curriculum and information from the trials and reviews is used to ensure that each test is of similar difficulty to those in previous years," she said.

Read it and weep
Questions that children found difficult

Question "She wriggled back inside the tent …"
What does this tell you about how Priya got inside the tent? Tick one.

- **She ran quickly inside.**
- **She jumped through the flap.**
- **She had to squeeze in.**
- **She crept in quietly.**

Answer **She had to squeeze in - but teachers said many children chose "she crept in quietly", which they felt was also valid.**

Question **In which American state is the Congress Avenue Bridge found?**

Relevant extract ***"By day the Congress Avenue Bridge in the city of Austin could hardly look more normal: a grey, dreary city-centre road bridge. By night, it plays host to one of the most amazing shows nature has to offer. The underside of the bridge is home to more than a million bats, and every evening in summer they all come swarming out at once, rising up into the city sky like a tornado before spreading out in all directions like plumes of smoke. Standing on the bridge, you might even feel the wind from their wings as they pass by.***

Austin is the capital city of the state of Texas in the USA, but it is also the bat capital of North America. The bats … attract thousands of visitors every year."

Answer **Texas, but many children - unfamiliar with the US states - answered Austin.**

Houses could be built with used nappies, say scientists

Helena Horton
Environment reporter

Used nappies should be used in housebuilding to save sand, scientists have said.

Up to 8% of sand in the concrete and mortar used to make a single-storey house could be replaced with shredded used nappies without significantly diminishing their strength, scientists from the University of Kitakyushu in Japan have found.

The study, published in the journal Scientific Reports, said that building regulations could be changed to allow this material to be used and that it would reduce the carbon footprint of the homes as well as find a use for the otherwise non-recyclable waste.

Disposable nappies are usually composed of wood pulp, cotton, rayon and plastics such as polyester, polyethylene and polypropylene. Because they cannot usually be recycled, the majority are disposed of in landfill or by incineration.

The lead author of the research, Siswanti Zuraida, and colleagues prepared concrete and mortar samples by combining washed, dried, and shredded disposable nappy waste with cement, sand, gravel, and water, curing the samples for 28 days.

The researchers then tested six samples containing different proportions of waste to measure how much pressure they could withstand without breaking. They then calculated the maximum proportion of sand that could be replaced with disposable nappies in a range of building materials.

The researchers found concrete made with nappies was as good as conventional materials. They said: "The research also demonstrated that the mechanical properties and microbial content of disposable diaper concrete, in specific compositions, are identical to conventional concrete. Adding 1% diaper to concrete enhances internal curing hydration and produces the most robust, durable material. In addition, a mixture of up to 5% disposable diapers with concrete had the maximum strength at 28 days compared to other percentages."



▲ Used nappies could be shredded and used to save sand in concrete

The scientists said it was unlikely the use of nappies in the mixture would have any negative effects on health, as sodium chloride could be used to sanitise them.

It also found that using waste to create homes had more ecological benefits and fewer carbon emissions than incinerating it.

The study says: "As a result, the study intends to tackle the problem of housing provision by creating building materials from non-degradable waste, which is cost-effective while meeting building standards."



◀ The Duke and Duchess of Sussex, seen here in 2018, were returning from an awards ceremony on Tuesday night, along with Meghan's mother, when the incident occurred
PHOTOGRAPH: NEIL MOCKFORD/GC IMAGES

Sussexes 'shaken up' after 'reckless' car chase, but witnesses query initial account of pursuit

Jamie Grierson

The Duke and Duchess of Sussex were left "shaken up" after being followed by paparazzi through New York City in a "frightening" and "reckless" pursuit, the security chief responsible for their transport has said.

Thomas Buda, president of Buda Security, conceded the pursuit was not "high speed" but said it had put the couple in "danger", in an interview with NBC News in the US.

Harry and Meghan, as well as the duchess's mother, said on Wednesday they had been involved in a "near catastrophic" two-hour car chase after being followed by a "ring of highly aggressive paparazzi".

The episode – which recalls the death of Harry's mother, Diana, Princess of Wales, who was killed when her car crashed as it was being followed by paparazzi in 1997 – is said to have happened after the three attended an awards ceremony on Tuesday.

The account has been disputed, however, with police confirming there had been no reported collisions, injuries or arrests, and one photo agency denying the paparazzi had behaved aggressively, even suggesting the Sussexes' vehicle was driven erratically. A taxi driver briefly involved in the episode has also cast doubt on the couple's statement.

> **'The protection team Harry has got at the moment has never dealt with such a high-profile celebrity'**
>
> **Ken Wharfe**
> *Duke's ex-bodyguard*

Yesterday, however, Buda told NBC the group of photographers pursuing them had been "driving aggressively and badly".

He added that they had been "following us to find out where we were staying". He added that some cars had been trying to leapfrog them and that two cars ahead had been working to slow traffic down.

Although it "was not a high speed pursuit", Buda said, "it was reckless by them". He added that they had

Daily Express
Current editor 'involved' in Mirror Group phone hacks, court hears

Jim Waterson
Media editor

The current editor of the Daily Express was "involved in phone hacking" and other illegal activity, the high court has been told.

The trial of Prince Harry's phone-hacking claim heard yesterday that Gary Jones was "a prolific user of private investigators" while working at the News of the World and Daily Mirror in the 1990s and 2000s.

Although the court has heard allegations against many former editors, including Piers Morgan, this is the first time during this trial that a serving national newspaper editor has been accused of involvement in phone hacking.

Graham Johnson, a former Sunday Mirror reporter, said hundreds of people at Mirror Group Newspapers were involved in a cover-up of illegal behaviour: "This is an investigation into an organised crime group, which is Mirror Group Newspapers. I investigated drug gangs in Liverpool, fraud factories in south-east London, and street gangs in Birmingham. The Mirror Group is no different from an organised crime group in that respect. This is a true crime story."

He claimed that Jones, who has been editor of the Daily Express since it was bought by the Mirror's parent company in 2018, handled hacked material relating to Sadie Frost while working as a reporter for the Daily Mirror. Johnson said Jones "was a prolific user of private investigators, and was involved in phone hacking and private investigators" while working with Greg Miskiw, who commissioned hundreds of hacks at the News of the World.

Jones worked for Morgan at the News of the World in the mid-1990s, before following his boss over to the Daily Mirror. Jones became a regular client of Southern Investigations, a private investigation firm linked to police corruption and the unsolved murder of Daniel Morgan, allegedly using them to obtain Prince Michael of Kent's bank records.

Johnson told the court it was noteworthy that Jones had not been called as a defence witness by the Mirror: "None of these people will give evidence and I'd like to know why. I'd like Mirror Group to answer that question. I'd like to know why Piers Morgan isn't here to give evidence."

A spokesperson for Mirror Group Newspapers said: "Where historical wrongdoing has taken place, we have

gone to the NYPD's 19th precinct police station.

The couple's claims were disputed by one of the picture agencies, Backgrid USA, which said in a statement it had received photos and videos from four freelance photographers.

"They had no intention of causing any distress or harm, as their only tool was their cameras," the statement said. "A few of the photos even show Meghan Markle smiling inside a cab.

"The photographers report that one of the four SUVs from Prince Harry's security escort was driving in a manner that could be perceived as reckless," it added.

A former bodyguard of Harry has said the Sussexes' security should have been "properly stage-managed".

"The protection team he has got at the moment has never dealt with such a high-profile celebrity as Harry and Meghan," Ken Wharfe told ITV's Good Morning Britain yesterday, adding that he had some sympathy for the couple.

"The whole point is you have to take advice on this, and I don't know to what extent the New York Police Department were involved, but basically it's something that needs to be properly stage-managed," he said.

The US press reaction to the Sussexes' claims about the incident was varied yesterday morning. Tabloids such as the New York Post lapped up the story with the expected relish, whereas broadsheets such as the New York Times and Washington Post approached it with a sense of moderation.

The New York Post ran the story under a headline of "Duke (and Duchess) of hazard", alluding to the 1980s action comedy series The Dukes of Hazzard, in which the two lead characters would often drive at high speed and do stunts.

It also made comparisons to the death of Diana, but reported that "cops said the supposed ordeal wasn't nearly as dramatic as the couple claimed".

The New York Times took a more measured approach, with a short downpage story on the front of its print edition, with the online version sliding its way down the homepage.

The print headline, "Harry, Meghan and the frenzy that follows their every move", captures the high level of interest the couple still attract in the US.

The Washington Post's rather literal headline – "Prince Harry, Meghan say they were chased by NYC paparazzi. Cab driver describes incident" – suggests a less enthusiastic level of engagement when compared with the tabloids' coverage.

---

made admissions, take full responsibility and apologise unreservedly, but we will vigorously defend against allegations of wrongdoing where our journalists acted lawfully."

Harry and more than a hundred other claimants are suing Mirror Group Newspapers, alleging that the publisher of the Daily Mirror, Sunday Mirror and People engaged in widespread illegal behaviour and then covered up the evidence.

Andrew Green KC, the Mirror's barrister, suggested Johnson was not an "objective and independent witness" because he was working with lawyers for Harry and the other claimants.

The royal bodyguard

How I would have dealt with frenzied paparazzi

Jamie Grierson



▲ *Former royal bodyguard Simon Morgan is now in the private sector*

When Simon Morgan was a bodyguard to members of the royal family, paparazzi pursuits were an almost daily occurrence.

But Morgan, who served with the Metropolitan police Specialist Operations directorate's SO14 royalty personal protection unit, said he would never advise a "cat-and-mouse chase" with photographers hellbent on making their fortune.

He told the Guardian the frenzied climate that fuels the sort of pursuits the Duke and Duchess of Sussex say they experienced in New York on Wednesday was worse than it was when Diana, Princess of Wales, died nearly 30 years ago.

Now with security firm Trojan Consultancy, Morgan, who protected the late Queen among other royals, said he would attempt to engage with the paparazzi.

He said: "It was almost a daily occurrence. Your first port of call is always communication – if you see the paparazzi outside a restaurant or a nightclub, engagement is always the first positive step.

"Explain to them that you're happy for them to take pictures but on your terms, 'You snap there, you won't chase the car and block cars in' and so on."

Morgan said a chase is not an option that should be considered: "As has been highlighted in this case, it then becomes a public safety issue, driving cars at speed through narrow, populated streets, you're now the cause of potentially a fatal accident. You don't want to get into that."

If police back-up is not available and a chase unfolds, then a place of safety must be sought, he says.

"Can you get to your residence? Can you get to the police station and seek refuge there and let the incident die down? There are different strategies but playing that cat-and-mouse game is fraught with danger."

As the duke and duchess have been at pains to emphasise, the attention from the paparazzi takes a significant toll on their wellbeing. This is not lost on royal protection officers, Morgan says, who see an element of pastoral care. In the case of the Duke of Sussex, he will be dealing with the incident at hand but also the stress of past trauma from the death of his mother, he says.

"The duke firmly blames the paparazzi for that relentless pursuit of his mother that ended in her death. For him, it's not just the incident [this week], it's the trauma of previous incidents that would have come back to him."

Morgan said reassuring the "principal" is one of the many roles of the protection officer and part of that is making sure the whole team is fully qualified.

Morgan does not see the paparazzi changing. "It's about supply and demand. There is a demand for these images. People want to know what … the Duke and Duchess of Sussex are up to."

Police protection officers have an understanding of the legislation but so do the paparazzi, he says. "You have to be clear with your principal that we will not be playing a cat-and-mouse game with the press," he said. "We will not be driving through the streets of London, Paris, Rome … we will stop and get to a place of safety."



◀ *Morgan on duty in his role as a Met police SO14 royal bodyguard protecting the Queen in 2018*
PHOTOGRAPH: TROJAN CONSULTANCY

Messages reveal extent of Tory donors' access to Hancock in pandemic

Felicity Lawrence

Newly released WhatsApp messages and emails between Tory donors and the former health secretary Matt Hancock reveal the extent of ministerial access they enjoyed when Covid contracts were being awarded.

Two major donors to the Conservatives, Mustafa Mohammed and Mohamed Amersi, had direct access to Hancock and used it to promote firms offering Covid services with which they were involved. Amersi also had a phone meeting with James Bethell, a health minister at the time, in which he put forward projects with which he was connected.

Both Mohammed and Amersi said they had made no financial gain from the contacts and that they had acted purely to help in a time of national crisis. Hancock insisted the contacts were in response to a call for help with testing and that all leads were passed on to officials in an appropriate way. However, the messages raise new questions about the influence politically connected people had during the pandemic as a result of their relationships with Tory ministers.

The government has been forced to admit that it ran a controversial "VIP" PPE contracts lane for those with personal contacts, which was subsequently ruled unlawful. There is no suggestion that Mohammed or Amersi acted unlawfully.

Mohammed messaged Hancock on 11 June 2020 with a proposal. He suggested that Genix, which operates UK dental clinics, partner with a global crisis management company, Ecolog, to set up a rapid testing service. Early the next morning, Hancock replied "very interesting", and asked Mohammed to email details to his office. Ecolog was then referred by Hancock's officials into the government's VIP priority lane.

Within a week Mohammed had met the team at the Department of Health and Social Care. "My dear friend hope you are well … I had the call today … which went well. Thank you so much for your kind help," Mohammed messaged Hancock on 18 June.

A legal letter of intent was signed by the DHSC on 4 September 2020, which guaranteed a multimillion-pound payment to Ecolog even if a full contract was not issued. The following year the DHSC decided it did not want to proceed and gave Ecolog £38m in settlement for "mobilisation costs", including a "profit component". The DHSC confirmed no services were provided by the firm.

The messages were disclosed after freedom of information requests were made by the Good Law Project. The GLP director, Jolyon Maugham, said: "What we desperately need is an independent review into how this happened over and over again."

Mohammed's access to the health secretary did not end with Ecolog. The day the preliminary contract for Ecolog was signed, he sent another WhatsApp message to Hancock.

This time Mohammed was promoting a company called Oxsed, which had developed rapid Covid tests. "As you will be aware my dear friend I am involved with Oxsed and have been liaising with [redacted] and [redacted] team who have been extremely helpful … is there anyone else we should be contacting to speed up the process my dear friend," he wrote. Hancock replied promptly promising to look at a presentation . It is not clear if any elp was given.

In response to the disclosure of the messages, Mohammed said: "Many highly experienced individuals were working incredibly hard … doing everything they could to try to save lives. Any insinuation that anything improper or morally wrong was occurring is completely unfounded."

Amersi, another Tory donor, also promoted Oxsed in a meeting in June 2020 with the health minister Lord Bethell, according to minutes of the meeting. Bethell asked a DHSC team to report on the project's merit.

Amersi also Hancock on 5 September . He signed off with a suggestion: "It would be wonderful if you think it appropriate to have a single senior person shepherd this along if it has merit."

Amersi said the firm was directed to the regulator's website and his approaches were "at all times on a philanthropic basis". He said he had no financial interest in any of the projects he put forward, that he did not recieve any favourable treatment and that his access had nothing to do with being a party donor.

Bethell said it was his job to talk to firms with innovative solutions to the crisis and to connect them with officials. "From your description, that's what I did. What's the problem?"

A spokesperson for Hancock said the messages showed he acted properly. "Government Covid contracts were decided, priced and signed off by the civil service, who are independent of ministers. To suggest any wrongdoing is offensive and false," the spokesperson said.

A spokesperson for Oxsed's parent company, Prenetics, said "zero business and zero approval" for Oxsed was facilitated by Mohammed or Amersi, and that it won no UK government contracts. Ecolog did not responded to requests for comment.



▲ *Matt Hancock was the health secretary during much of the crisis*

Heat pumps. Clean. Green. And heats as well as a boiler.

Or your money back.



That's our British Gas Warm Home Promise.

Search British Gas Heat Pumps

Terms and conditions apply.



▼ *Elizabeth Chau's family: from left, sister Bic-Hang, mother Phung and brother Minh-Vu* PHOTOGRAPH: CHRISTIAN SINIBALDI/THE GUARDIAN

Family of missing teenager Elizabeth Chau say they have lost trust in the Met

Vikram Dodd
Police and crime correspondent

The family of a missing teenager whom the convicted killer Levi Bellfield claims to have murdered say they have lost trust and confidence in the police after a tense meeting with detectives.

The family of Elizabeth Chau said their hopes of getting answers after 24 years had been dashed after Metropolitan police detectives told them this week they would not immediately start digging at the site where the serial killer said he had buried her.

Bellfield, who has already been convicted of the murders of three young women, claims Chau, 19, was abducted in April 1999 from Ealing in west London. If his confession is true, it would make the computer studies student his first known victim.

Bellfield confessed to the killing on Tuesday last week. According to his solicitor, he marked a map with a cross to show the spot where she was buried and handed it to officers.

Chau's family had a two-hour meeting with Met detectives on Wednesday that left them furious. They say police claimed the area Bellfield identified was too "vast" to dig straight away, according to three people present at the meeting.

The police's view is disputed by Bellfield's solicitor and Chau's brother and sister.

Minh-Vu, the brother of Elizabeth, said: "We have lost trust and confidence in the police, because they are acting too slowly. They are being very vague, they have not done enough. They have enough to go to the site and to try and verify whether Elizabeth is there or not."

Elizabeth's sister, Bic-Hang, said the family did not believe the area identified by Bellfield was "too vast". "We don't believe that is true. They are not doing anything because Elizabeth is not a priority."

Police are understood to be consulting or due to consult with forensic experts and excavation specialists, and to have told the Chau family any excavation could take months. Their investigation continues.

The family say they understand Bellfield may be lying, but after 24 years they want urgent action taken to prove or disprove the claim their loved one is buried at the site.



◀ *Elizabeth Chau went missing from Ealing, west London, in April 1999. The serial killer Levi Bellfield confessed to her murder last week*

The last known sighting of Chau was just after 6pm, on a CCTV camera close to Ealing police station in April 1999.

Bic-Hang said: "The meeting with police investigators was hard and disappointing, and the pace of the investigation remains frustratingly slow and painful. We are not confident that finding Elizabeth's remains is being prioritised."

Theresa Clark, Bellfield's solicitor, was present when he made his confession to detectives. It came under criminal caution and was recorded, and took place in Frankland prison in Durham, where Bellfield is imprisoned on a whole-life tariff.

Detectives showed a printout of a Google map to Bellfield, who marked a specific area with a pen, Clark said. She said: "I could see the area on the map. [He] circled it and put a cross within that circle with a Biro."

> *'We are not confident finding her remains is being prioritised'*
>
> **Bic-Hang Chau**
> *Sister of Elizabeth Chau*

"He said he might be 20ft out," she said. "It is an area he knew well. It was quite specific. It did not look vast."

In March, the Chau family asked for a meeting with the Met commissioner, Mark Rowley. They say they have not yet received a reply.

Minh-Vu said: "It is also disappointing that the Metropolitan police commissioner has not responded to our request to meet him despite the gravity of failures in this case. We cannot sit back and allow the same failures and obstructions to be repeated again."

They have now asked for a meeting with the London mayor, Sadiq Khan, who, as the city's police and crime commissioner, oversees the force.

The Met declined to comment on any issue raised by the Chau family after the meeting.

The force refused to say whether Chau's death was being treated as homicide or whether they were investigating an allegation of wasting police time against a man aged 54, whom the Met last week confirmed they had interviewed under caution on Tuesday 9 May.

Senior police chiefs accuse prosecutors of 'cherrypicking' easier cases

Vikram Dodd

Two of Britain's most senior police chiefs have accused prosecutors of "cherrypicking" cases to prosecute in court and warned that victims were being let down.

The Metropolitan police commissioner, Sir Mark Rowley, said the Crown Prosecution Service, which authorises charges in England and Wales, was picking the easier cases to secure convictions and dropping other more difficult cases, rather than letting juries decide.

Craig Guildford, the chief constable of West Midlands police, the second-biggest force in England, revealed officers had to take emergency measures last week to make a charge in a firearms case themselves, and said the CPS, which suffered cuts during austerity, was spread too thin.

Among police chiefs there have been years of frustration that they get the blame for victims being failed when in fact – as they see it – decisions by prosecutors are to blame.

Rowley told the Evening Standard: "When you look at the fact that the cases the CPS prosecute, 80% of them are successful, guilty pleas or convictions, that suggests that we're not taking on the harder cases, cherrypicking the easy cases rather than trying to get as many cases [to court].

"To be successful for victims of all types of crime we need a system that's prepared to take more difficult cases through and let juries and magistrates decide rather than lawyers in advance.

"The CPS and police should be jointly held to account for bringing as many people to justice as possible, whereas at the moment it's done too separately and the CPS can pick and choose the cases they want."

The CPS was introduced as an independent prosecution service for England and Wales to improve the integrity of prosecutions in court.

Rowley said that in domestic abuse cases, charging decisions took longer compared with before Covid. Increased home-working may be a factor, Rowley said, adding: "A large proportion of domestic abuse cases that we could have charged on the night the person was arrested pre-Covid, we [now] have to bail for 28 days pending a CPS decision."

The Met commissioner accepted police also had to "improve our support to victims and the evidence files we submit" to the CPS, which complains that too many files from police are substandard.

The experience of the CPS is not limited to London. Guildford said: "I welcome Sir Mark's comments and would echo their intent."

The CPS was approached for comment.

Stage review

Full-blooded and feminist version of Tolstoy's tale

Anna Karenina
Royal Lyceum theatre, Edinburgh
★★★★☆

Mark Fisher

It must be Saturday because Anna Karenina and her husband, Alexei, are having sex. The act is passionless and mechanical. They are fully dressed, the silk of Anna's metallic purple gown staying as unruffled as the buttoned-up jacket of Alexei's uniform.

But they are not the only ones there. Drawing Anna away, first mentally, then physically, is Alexei Vronsky, her handsome younger lover, who turns a tepid bedroom scene into one of bodice-ripping lust. If you want to know why Anna is tempted, this is all the reason you need. Her husband slips out of sight.

Such is the porous nature of Lesley Hart's full-blooded adaptation of the Leo Tolstoy novel. Her scenes flow into each other so you can't see where one stops and the other starts. It gives the staging tremendous energy, bouncing from St Petersburg party to rural estate with a pace as restless as Anna's desires.

With a similar sense of theatre, Hart freezes a significant moment - a look, a proposal - to let the characters stand back and reflect. It is a technique picked up by the director, Polina Kalinina, who opens with a tableau of a decadent feast before animating the stage with constant movement.


▲ *Tallulah Greive as Kitty and Ray Sesay as Kitty's husband Levin, one of the two central couples in Anna Karenina* PHOTOGRAPH: ROBBIE MCFADZEAN

The approach reaches its height in a circling conflict between the two central couples in an excellently acted production. While Anna (Lindsey Campbell) squares up to Vronsky (Robert Akodoto), whose allure is wearing off, Kitty (Tallulah Greive) loses patience with Levin (Ray Sesay), the husband who is too sensitive for his own good.

Their arguments bounce across each other in a choreographed collision of ideas about love, fidelity and commitment, the themes of the novel finding theatrical form.

By this point, Campbell has gone from the pragmatic mother to a woman let loose from social constraints. Where she was calm facing down her jealous husband (Stephen McCole) and temperate placating her aggrieved sister-in-law (Jamie Marie Leary), now she is both imbalanced - with heavy hints of Lady Macbeth - and free to speak her mind.

Tolstoy's impulse for the melodramatic means it can only end badly, but with the men variously feckless and detached and the women resistant and assertive, this is a sparky feminist cry for liberation.

Until 3 June, then at Bristol Old Vic from 7 June

Eddie Murphy in talks to star in Pink Panther

Andrew Pulver

Eddie Murphy is in talks to take the role of The Pink Panther's Inspector Clouseau, a part made popular by Peter Sellers in the 1960s and 70s.

According to the Hollywood Reporter, Murphy is to be cast in a Pink Panther film directed by Jeff Fowler, known for Sonic the Hedgehog.

The film is said to be a "live-action/CG hybrid … buddy cop movie", with Murphy's Clouseau teaming up with the cartoon Pink Panther. The cartoon character became popular after it was memorably featured in the first Pink Panther film's opening credits. More than 100 episodes were made.

The film series was rebooted in 2006 with Steve Martin, who starred in two poorly received films.

After massive success in the 1980s on Saturday Night Live and in film comedies such as Trading Places and Beverly Hills Cop, Murphy moved into family pictures, with hits such as Dr Dolittle and The Nutty Professor.



One in three Tory voters think ministers are failing on housing

Robert Booth
Social affairs correspondent

More than one in three Conservative voters believe the government is doing a bad job at improving housing in Britain - more than those who believe it is being effective - exclusive polling for the Guardian has revealed.

As Michael Gove, the secretary of state for levelling up, housing and communities, published a long-delayed bill changing aspects of private renting on Wednesday, the poll by Ipsos found that 34% of people who voted Tory in 2019 now think the government is failing on the issue and only 29% believe it is doing a good job.

It also showed voters believe building social housing is more important than increasing the supply of homes to buy, despite a focus by the government and Labour on reigniting the dream of home ownership. Of the more than 2,000 adults polled last weekend, 54% said more council housing and homes to rent from housing associations were most needed, compared with 35% who said more homes to buy were the priority.

Rishi Sunak has reportedly been considering reviving a multibillion-pound help-to-buy scheme to boost home ownership. On Wednesday, Keir Starmer, the Labour leader, said he would build more houses, "backing the builders, not the blockers".

"We understand the dream of home ownership and the sense of security it gives to working people to have a roof over their own head which is their own," Starmer said, warning Sunak's plan to drop targets would see housebuilding "plummet".

The polling is unlikely to cheer Labour. Compared with Sunak's administration, 35% thought a Labour government would do a better job at improving housing, but the same amount thought it would make no difference and almost one in five thought it would make things worse.

Ahead of the publication of the full renters (reform) bill, Gove told the BBC: "No-fault evictions go. And one of the big reasons is that these evictions, or the threat of these evictions, have been used by rogue landlords to intimidate tenants into accepting poor standards or extortionate rent increases."

With stronger laws allowing evictions for antisocial behaviour, involving just two months' notice, he said renters could be evicted "if you are causing trouble for other tenants … or are behaving in a way which creates distress and havoc for others".

54%
Proportion of the 2,000 polled who said affordable housing was more important than homes to buy

The homelessness charity Crisis has warned that fast-tracking evictions for antisocial behaviour could see survivors of domestic abuse unfairly pushed out of their homes.

"Genuine antisocial behaviour should, of course, be tackled, but we know that complaints about tenants can arise due to issues such as domestic abuse," said the charity's chief executive, Matt Downie. "In other cases, people who have unmet health and social care needs can also face complaints of antisocial behaviour. Eviction would not solve the problem and just risks pushing them into homelessness, when what's required is appropriate support to help keep them in their home."

Eviction will also be possible "if you are persistently in arrears with your rent", Gove said. Any disputes would be settled by a new "light touch" private renting ombudsman "with all the staff they need" or in courts, said Gove, who hopes the bill will become law by the end of this year, although he expects opposition in the House of Lords.



Perfect bloom
The Wisteria Walk at RHS Garden Wisley, Surrey. For the first time since it was planted in 2018 the display has both purple and white blooms. Frost in past years damaged the cultivar so this time fire pits were used at night.

PHOTOGRAPH: ANDREW MATTHEWS/PA

RSPB calls for halt to game bird releases to keep avian flu at bay

Sandra Laville
Environment correspondent

The RSPB is calling for a moratorium on the release of game birds this summer to keep avian flu levels down. The charity says it will be catastrophic for tens of millions of game birds such as pheasants and partridges to be released in late June and July for shooting in the summer and autumn with avian flu still a huge threat to wild birds.

There have been 10 outbreaks of avian flu at game-bird rearing premises since 2021. The most recent was in April at Bettws Hall Game Farm, a major facility near Newtown in Powys where protection zones are still in place.

Game birds are held in captivity in the UK before they are released for the shooting season. The Animal and Plant Health Agency classifies the birds as poultry while in captivity, but once released they are classed as wild birds for avian flu rules, and their breeder or owner is no longer their legal keeper.

About 55 million pheasants and red-legged partridges and 2.6 million mallards are reared in captivity each year for release into the countryside to be shot for sport. Bird releases start towards the end of June and continue through July and August, but before then they can be moved from farms to release pens, which are often unroofed. This can lead to interactions with wild birds, putting them at risk, the RSPB says.

The Welsh government's chief veterinary officer, Dr Richard Irvine, announced the latest protection zone around Bettws Hall Game Farm on 27 April. Under the declaration, game birds are not allowed to be released.

The chair of the National Farmers' Union in Montgomeryshire, Richard Jones, said it must be enforced and that no birds should released from the farm this season.

He said releases would put thousands of birds, including poultry, at risk. Jones, whose farm is within the six-mile protection zone around Bettws Hall, still has to keep his poultry, which is supposed to be free range, indoors.

Humans in Europe may have used fire to cook 250,000 years ago

Nicola Davis
Science correspondent

Prehistoric humans in Europe may have been sitting around campfires built to toast snacks as early as 250,000 years ago - 50,000 years earlier than previously thought, researchers say.

Human species have a long association with fire, with some sites suggesting its controlled use dates back more than 700,000 years in Africa and the Middle East and at least 400,000 years in Europe.

Now experts say they have found the earliest evidence in Europe for fires that could have been made for socialising and heating food.

"This is the oldest evidence of human-controlled fire meant for cooking and social interaction," said Dr Clayton Magill, an assistant professor at Heriot-Watt University and an author of the study.

Magill noted that before the study, other evidence had suggested there were "organised" fires in Europe by 200,000 years ago, meaning there were signs they were laid out deliberately and used for particular purposes. "We've now pushed that date back 50,000 years," he said.

"That's not to say that other locations don't have that. However, we haven't been able to show it systematically or robustly until now," he added.

Writing in the journal Scientific Reports, Magill and colleagues in Spain report how they had studied the Valdocarros II site, east of Madrid. The team say that not only did the site contain multiple hearths, but that chemical analyses of substances within them suggested the fires burned at temperatures between about 280C and 350C.

"That's the sweet spot not for dedicated heating, or for persistently scaring animals, but rather for cooking," said Magill.

The team also found evidence of degradation products from pine trees and fungus, suggesting rotten pine wood had been burned.

That, said Magill, was notable, because while found in the surrounding area, pine trees were not abundant locally to the site, suggesting the wood may have been deliberately collected.

"If we [look at] a lot of Indigenous peoples in the modern world, rotting wood is specifically sought out because it's easier to burn at the sweet spot for temperatures for cooking," he said.

It is unclear which species of early human may have used the fires, and traces of food have not been recovered from the hearths. However, the team are now analysing stone tools found near the hearths that show traces of animal fats and plants, as well as charred materials.

Eyewitness



▼ Aleutian Islands, Pacific Ocean
Aleutian Juice by Chris Burkard, one of the 100 top photographers taking part in '100 for the Ocean' – a sale of prints raising funds for environmental groups that focus on maritime conservation. The sale runs until 31 May and can be found at theguardian.com/inpictures
PHOTOGRAPH: CHRIS BURKARD/100 FOR THE OCEAN



Loch, stock and crannog

Volunteers rebuild iron age house on the water

Libby Brooks
Scotland correspondent

On the shores of Loch Tay, slices of dark turf are piled high alongside bundles of pale reeds. Over the month of May, local volunteers are turning these raw materials into a replica iron age roundhouse in what will mark a rise from the ashes for one of Scotland's best-loved living history museums.

In June 2021, the replica roundhouse at the Scottish Crannog Centre burned down in just six minutes. The cause is not known but police have ruled out anything suspicious.

An outpouring of support followed and £50,000 was donated within a fortnight, a testament to the appeal of this unique open-air museum, which offers the chance to take part in iron age crafts such as weaving and pottery, as well as serious archaeological work.

With a grant of £2.3m from the Scottish government, the centre is rebuilding on a new site directly across the loch.

Crannogs, which were common across Scotland and Ireland, are houses built on stilts over water, usually with a bridge to the shore. The first crannogs in Scotland were built on lochs and firths in the early iron age, about 2,500 years ago.





▲ The remains of the roundhouse on Loch Tay destroyed by fire two years ago and, left, how it looked in 1998
PHOTOGRAPH: MURDO MACLEOD/ THE GUARDIAN

> 'Everything we are doing now is inspired by what people did 2,500 years ago'
>
> **Rich Hiden**
> Scottish Crannog Centre

Looking out across the water from the new site at Dalerb, assistant director Rachel Backshall picks out four submerged crannogs. "They existed in different forms up to the 17th century and there are 17 on Loch Tay alone," she says. "We are surrounded by the archaeology we're talking about."

The museum celebrates crannogs not only for the skills and technologies required to build and maintain them but also for the way they hold information about the past. As underwater sites, they are often well-preserved, providing a rare glimpse of prehistoric life.

Volunteers plan to finish building a land roundhouse over the summer and begin a new crannog over water in the winter.

As with the original museum, which remains open, the new site will include a replica iron age village with demonstration shelters for cookery, metalworking, weaving and woodcraft, as well as eco-friendly modular buildings for a new cafe, museum and shop.

The centre is aiming to become Scotland's most sustainable museum, not just in terms of its carbon count but of craft, skills and sustainable materials.

"Everything we're doing now is directly inspired by what people did 2,500 years ago," says Rich Hiden, another assistant director. "It might seem that we're doing something cutting-edge to be super sustainable but the practice and skills are all bedded in what the crannog people did. They were living in a way we can learn from."



▲ Crannog volunteer workers strip logs of bark for the new construction

Sustainability and access might be familiar heritage-sector buzzwords but a visit to the centre underlines how creatively embedded this museum is in its wider community. Refugee integration groups, members of Perthshire Women's Aid and local schools will be helping. "People are building themselves into a shared heritage," says Backshall.

The centre has a wide range of volunteers and also offers one-to-one mentoring for young people struggling at school.

Rebecca Davies, 50, an archaeology graduate, drove for 12 hours from Wiltshire to help after reading about the fire. Her first paid job will be as a heritage interpreter over the summer. She was diagnosed with autism at the age of 35, and says: "Museums can help because they are full of quirky people anyway."

In the museum, curator Amy Stewart is sorting through boxes of pottery fragments from a nearby crannog site where the fingerprints of the iron age people who sculpted them are still visible. Visitors are encouraged to place their fingers in the prehistoric prints.

"It's a very different way of thinking about leaving your mark on history," she says. "Everyone can make their mark, not just kings and queens."

Ex-Met officer admits she made errors in Couzens flashing case

Emine Sinmaz

The former Metropolitan police officer accused of botching the Wayne Couzens flashing case has admitted she made mistakes, but said nothing she could have done would have changed the tragic kidnap, rape and murder of Sarah Everard hours later.

Samantha Lee is accused of conducting an "extremely poor" investigation after Couzens, 50, exposed himself to female staff at a drive-through McDonald's in Kent on 14 and 27 February 2021, a police disciplinary hearing was told.

Lee, 29, is said to have failed to secure CCTV footage when she visited the restaurant on 3 March, hours before Couzens abducted Everard, 33, in Clapham, south-west London.

She is also accused of lying when later questioned about her actions, claiming she believed that the restaurant's CCTV deleted automatically. Lee denies gross misconduct, lying and breaching the force's standards.

While under investigation for the alleged failings, she quit the force and reportedly set up an OnlyFans account called Officer Naughty.

Yesterday, Lee told the hearing that she should have asked more questions about the CCTV and properly logged evidence, including the McDonald's receipts which showed the last four digits of Couzens' Mastercard and the date and time he exposed his penis to staff.

At the of end her evidence, she was asked if she wanted to add anything about the case. She told the hearing: "I would say I accept I could've done more around the CCTV inquiries and evidence gathering, those was errors on my part and I fully accept that.

"As much as I thought over and over about what I could've done different, I don't think anything would've changed the tragic outcome of what happened later that day."

Lee is accused of failing to escalate the case so officers from Kent police could have been sent to Couzens' house in Deal. However, Lee's commanding officer, Insp Rita Jones, told the hearing that even if Lee had, an arrest would not have happened until the following day at best.

In his closing speech, Paul Ozin KC, for the Met, drew attention to Jones's evidence and said Lee's alleged failings "probably would not have prevented the appalling crimes committed by Wayne Couzens".

Neil Saunders, Lee's representative, added: "There's no way that within hours there could have been anything done by Kent police."

If Lee is found to have committed gross misconduct, she could be banned from serving in the force again.

The panel at the misconduct hearing in Southwark, south London, will return its decision on Monday.

S Club 7 singer Cattermole died of natural causes, rules coroner

Ben Beaumont-Thomas

The S Club 7 singer Paul Cattermole died of natural causes, a coroner's report has ruled

A spokesperson for Dorset's coroners office told the BBC there would be no inquest into his death.

Cattermole was found at his home in Swanage on 6 April, with police stating there were no suspicious circumstances. He was 46.

Earlier this year he was part of the announcement that S Club 7, the group that debuted in 1999 and went on to have 11 UK Top 5 hits, would be reforming for a UK arena tour. His bandmates said they were "truly devastated" by Cattermole's death, adding: "There are no words to describe the deep sadness and loss we all feel."

The band, now rebranded S Club, recently announced they are to continue with their planned tour without Cattermole or Hannah Spearritt, who was in a relationship with Cattermole during their early-00s heyday.

Rachel Stevens said Cattermole "was such a big part of this tour, so involved in everything that we are planning. We are going to keep his memory alive and share it with all of you and it's going to make it even more special".



▲ Paul Cattermole rose to fame in 1999, as a member of S Club 7

Climate crisis
Catastrophic flooding in Italy and Somalia
Page 26

Bush bettongs
The 'mini-kangaroos on steroids' return
Page 27





▶ *Banners in the war-ravaged city of Homs depict Bashar al-Assad during the presidential elections in 2021*
PHOTOGRAPH: OMAR SANADIKI/REUTERS

Assad to take his seat at pan-Arab summit despite western warnings

Patrick Wintour
Diplomatic editor

Bashar al-Assad, the Syrian president, is set to attend his first Arab League summit in 13 years today as the west and Gulf states clash over his rehabilitation after more than a decade of war against his own people.

Assad will take his seat in Jeddah in a move engineered by Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates that has already led to objections in Washington and London, where leaders say the Syrian leader has shown no contrition for the millions killed and displaced by his forces since pro-democracy protests started in 2011.

The UAE appears to have also challenged the west by inviting Assad to the UN Cop28 climate change conference in Dubai in November, his first global summit since the beginning of the conflict.

The invitation to Assad poses a dilemma for western leaders such as the US climate envoy, John Kerry, and Rishi Sunak who, if they attend, will find themselves in the same room as a man who remains subject to international sanctions for war crimes. There is no sign that the UAE consulted western diplomats before issuing the invitation.

Saudi Arabia has championed Assad's return to the 22-strong pan-Arab body even though some governments, principally Qatar and Kuwait, have qualms. Riyadh argues the Arab world has to be pragmatic and accept that Assad has survived the Syrian civil war, and the best way to influence the consequences of his victory is through an engagement with Damascus that will bear fruit over time, including by limiting the influence of Iran, Assad's biggest military backer.

"We have to invent new ways to meet the challenges facing our countries," said the Saudi foreign minister, Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud. He will be pressing the largely toothless summit to make progress in ending the wars in Sudan and Yemen.

Many Arab countries, notably Jordan, are desperate to constrain the trade in the illicitly produced drug Captogon, which is seen as a source of revenue for the Syrian regime.

There is little sign Assad is willing to make concessions in return for recognition, insisting that Syria will accept the return of refugees only once Gulf states have offered hard cash to reconstruct the country. Iran, a long-term Assad supporter, has already moved to entrench itself as the regime's closest backer.

In the west, outrage at the rehabilitation has been unconstrained. Raphaël Glucksmann, a French member of the socialist alliance in the European parliament specialising in human rights, said: "Crime pays, that's the message that is being sent. Bashar al-Assad … is the worst criminal against humanity today on this earth and progressively he returns."

A bipartisan congressional alliance in the US has rushed to ensure the Biden administration stands firm against Assad, even if this requires a breach with Gulf states. The House foreign affairs committee chair, Michael McCaul, introduced the bipartisan Assad Anti-Normalization Act, which would impose penalties for those who provide material support to the Assad regime and its partners, and prevents the US government from recognising any government led by Assad. The bill is expected to speed through Congress.

The bill won the support of James Jeffrey, a former US ambassador to Syria. "This bill … will advance the fight against Isis, support the return of refugees and internally displaced people, and block a geostrategic triumph by Assad, Putin and the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps."

The new UK special envoy for Syria, Ann Snow, also reiterated that Britain would not support normalisation "without significant behaviour change", saying there was no "meaningful or sustained or real peace without justice and accountability".

The advent of normalisation is already leading to reports by the Syrian opposition that refugees in border countries such as Lebanon are being forcibly rounded up to return to Syria. In Turkey, Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu, the challenger to President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, has claimed there are 10 million refugees in Turkey who need to be returned.

Erdoğan will also seek rapprochement with Assad after his probable re-election. The Kurds in northern Syria, attacked as terrorists by Turkey but partially protected by US troops, worry about the depth of US commitment to them and fear Turkey may strike a deal that leads to Assad re-establishing control of Kurdish areas.

From civil war to rehabilitation

March 2011 Protests inspired by the Arab spring erupt against Bashar al-Assad in Deraa before spreading across Syria. Its forces respond with arrests and shootings.

November 2011 The Arab League suspends Syria.

June 2012 World powers meeting in Geneva agree on the need for a political transition but divisions foil UN-sponsored peace efforts.

July 2012 Assad launches air raids on towns and cities that had rebelled. Thousands are killed.

March 2013 Syrian opposition leaders take Syria's seat at an Arab League summit in Doha.

August 2013 A gas attack on rebel-held eastern Ghouta near Damascus kills hundreds but there is no US military action. Syria denies using chemical weapons.

September 2015 Russia joins the war on Assad's side, deploying war planes that bomb rebel-held areas – a turning point in the conflict.

August 2016 Alarmed by Kurdish advances in northern Syria, Turkey launches an incursion.

April 2018 After years of siege, eastern Ghouta succumbs in a Russia-backed campaign. The final days are marked by a chlorine gas attack that kills 43. Washington and its allies fire missiles at Syria. Syria denies any role.

March 2019 Saudi Arabia says it is too early to restore diplomatic ties or reinstate Syria to the Arab League without progress on a political process to end the war.

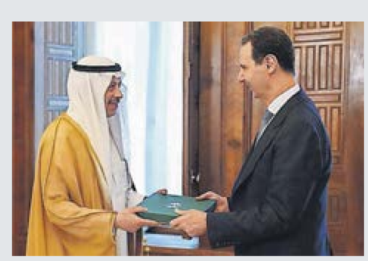
March 2022 Assad visits the United Arab Emirates and meets its leaders on his first trip to an Arab state since 2011.

December 2022 The Turkish and Syrian defence ministers meet in Moscow. Assad says he will only meet the Turkey's president when he withdraws his forces.

February 2023 A deadly earthquake prompts an outpouring of Arab support for Syria. The foreign ministers of Egypt and Jordan visit Damascus for the first time since war began.

April 2023 Assad receives the Saudi foreign minister, Prince Faisal bin Farhan, in Damascus.

May 2023 The Arab League readmits Syria. **Reuters**



▲ *Bashar al-Assad, right, accepts a Saudi invitation to the Arab League*

'The water was up to my neck': central Somalia devastated by heavy rainfall

Mohamed Gabobe
Hobyo

Almost a quarter of a million people have been forced to leave their homes after heavy rainfall in Somalia and Ethiopia led to flash floods.

A week on from the start of the flooding in Beledweyne, the capital of the Hiran region in Somalia, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) called for urgent funding to scale up assistance.

Jamal Ali, 36, has seen flooding in Beledweyne before but never on the scale witnessed when the Shabelle River burst its banks, causing devastation to the central Somalian town and displacing almost the entire population.

As water gushed through the streets, Ali's home in the Howl Wadaag neighbourhood of the city was soon surrounded by murky brown floodwater. "The water was up to my neck," he said. "Our entire family including my six children sought refuge in a relative's home after our house was immersed.

"I was barely able to get my children to safety and grab a couple of items as we fled. We haven't seen flooding on this scale in years," he added. "No one saw this level of devastation coming."

Somalia is suffering the effects of the worst drought in four decades, a result of the climate crisis. But OCHA for southern and eastern Africa warned that the rains will not counter the devastation caused by years of below average rainfall.

The Somali disaster management agency this week distributed aid to displaced families.

In 2019 local people built a defensive wall on the banks of the Shabelle, which has helped prevent flooding during previous heavy rains. But the wall could not withstand the force of the water this time. Like many members of his community, Ali fled to a relative's home for safety, where he is sharing a room with two other displaced families.



◀ *A man carries a sack through floodwater in Beledweyne, central Somalia, which has now displaced almost 250,000 people after the Shabelle River burst its banks* PHOTOGRAPH: HASSAN ALI ELMI/AFP/GETTY

"You don't have to be here with us to know how difficult it is when you have three families sharing a single room, not knowing when you'll return home and if the floods left anything behind," he said.

But the house they escaped to is also surrounded by water, raising fears that they will have to move again. "Everyone is scared that the water will rise," said Ali, speaking by phone from Beledweyne.

His fears are widely shared. Hassan Abdi fled with his wife and seven children from their home in a neighbourhood on the bank of the Shabelle on the first day of the flooding.

As the flood water began seeping under his front door, Abdi decided to evacuate his children to an empty home owned by his friend.

"When I left my home with my children, I thought the flooding would be short lived since we've endured many floods before," said Abdi, 37. "After resettling my family, I returned home to take whatever I could but it started getting close to dusk, so I made the decision to spend the night there.

"The water level was at my toes initially but by the time I woke up the following morning, the water was knee high," he added. "That's when I knew things would be different this time. I've witnessed six different floods and this is the worse one I've encountered since moving here in 1997.

"My children are still very young. Sometimes I wonder if they understand that they've become displaced and that this empty home might become our permanent home," added Abdi, who is unemployed and depends on remittances from siblings in the diaspora to support his family of seven. "I don't believe there's anything my siblings can do for my family. There are certain things that money can't fix and natural disasters is one of them."

Underdeveloped nations remain the most effected by climate induced catastrophes, which have affected the well-being and development prospects of millions of people.

Thirteen people dead in Italy's worst floods in a century

Angela Giuffrida
Rome

Older and disabled people were trapped in their homes as rescuers worked under pounding rain throughout the night to save people in the most catastrophic flooding to affect Italy in 100 years.

The floods in the northern Emilia-Romagna region had claimed 13 lives as of yesterday evening. An estimated 20,000 have been left homeless in a disaster that caused 23 rivers to burst their banks and 280 landslides, engulfing 41 cities and towns.

Roads remained blocked, including the A1 after a landslide in Sasso Marconi yesterday afternoon, and trains were cancelled or disrupted.

Among the dead were an elderly couple trapped inside their home in Cava, a hamlet in the province of Forlì-Cesena. "We heard their cries for help," a neighbour told Il Messaggero newspaper. "We tried to get them out, but it was useless."

An 80-year-old man drowned in his cellar after going to retrieve belongings, and a couple, identified as Sauro Manuzzi and Marinella Maraldi, were hit by the floods in the field opposite their home. The body of Maraldi, 70, was swept 12 miles down a river before being found on a beach along the Adriatic coast. A man, 76, was killed after being hit by a landslide in his garden, while another man, 43, died after falling into a well while trying to pump water away.



▲ *Residents remove mud and debris after flooding in Emilia Romagna, northern Italy* PHOTOGRAPH: CLAUDIA GRECO/REUTERS

Firefighters carried out 2,000 rescue operations across the region and in parts of central Marche that were also affected by the floods.

Forty elderly people were saved from a care home, while older people who sought refuge on rooftops were saved by helicopters, as were entire families. The floods destroyed homes and shops and left more than 5,000 farms under water, according to Coldiretti, Italy's largest agricultural association.

The situation in Cesena, also badly hit, had slightly improved by yesterday afternoon. "There are almost no more areas that are flooded," said Matteo Raggi, a spokesperson for the mayor, Enzo Lattuca. "Mud remains … we are now cleaning the waste from the streets. Many have been cut off because of the landslides but also because there is no mobile phone reception."

Pierluigi Randi, the president of Ampro, the association of weather experts, told La Repubblica it was the worst flood to affect Italy in a century. It followed flooding in Emilia-Romagna and parts of Marche in early May in which six months' worth of rain fell in two weeks.

"We need to prepare ourselves, this is the climate crisis," Randi said.

Springsteen criticised

Bruce Springsteen was criticised last night for going ahead with a concert in Ferrara after the northern Emilia-Romagna region of Italy was battered by floods.

Fans of "The Boss" urged him to reconsider out of respect for the 13 dead and the thousands evacuated from their homes, after torrential rain caused landslides and made rivers break their banks. The floods led authorities to call off Sunday's Formula One grand prix in Imola.
Reuters *Rome*

Climate crisis
A 'new normal' for weather

This week, parts of northern Italy's Emilia-Romagna region received half their average annual rainfall in just 36 hours. Rivers burst their banks and thousands of acres of farmland lie submerged.

It is just the latest weather disaster to hit the country. Six months ago, 12 people died on the southern island of Ischia in a landslide triggered by torrential rain. Eleven more were killed last September by flash floods in the central region of Marche. Last July, amid a heatwave and Italy's worst drought for at least seven decades, an ice avalanche in the Italian Alps killed 11.

It is too soon for an attribution study to determine how much worse, or more likely, this week's floods were made by human-caused global heating. But across Europe, as atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide increase, so too does extreme weather – consecutive years of drought have afflicted farmers in Spain and southern France, while last year saw unprecedented heatwaves across the continent.

"Climate change is here and we are living the consequences. It isn't some remote prospect, it is the new normal," Paola Pino d'Astore, an expert at the Italian Society of Environmental Geology (Sigea), told Reuters.

Experts say Italy's geography makes it particularly vulnerable to climate disasters: its varied geology makes it prone to floods and landslides, while rapidly warming seas either side make it vulnerable to increasingly powerful storms, amid rising temperatures.
Damien Gayle

French resistance fighter describes mass killing of Nazi prisoners in 1944

Angelique Chrisafis
Paris

French and German authorities are preparing to dig in search of a mass grave in a forest in Corrèze, after a 98-year-old former French resistance fighter described the summary killings of German prisoners there in 1944.

Edmond Réveil, who had kept silent for decades, spoke to local media this week about how, as an 18-year-old officer for the resistance on 12 June 1944, he witnessed the mass shooting of 47 German soldiers and one French woman accused of collaborating with the Gestapo.

Réveil first spoke about the killings at a veterans' meeting in 2019, but he did not go to the media. Last week, he told his story to the local paper, La Montagne, and other sources, and authorities are now preparing to search a wooded area near the village of Meymac in central France, and excavate in the coming months.

Réveil, who was codenamed "Butterfly" when he became a teenaged Resistance liaison officer, told France Bleu radio yesterday that he had waited so long to speak out because had been under pressure to stay quiet at the time. "It had to stay secret," he said. "It was wrong to shoot prisoners."

But he felt that now, at his advanced age, and as the only surviving witness, "it had to become public". He said there was a certain amount of shame because shooting prisoners of war was not permitted, but he said there had been people in the area who had been aware of what had happened.

He told local television: "The world has to know what happened there. It is a historical truth."

La Montagne reported that a first dig had taken place in 1967 and found the remains of 11 people. France's national veterans' office is now working alongside the German war graves commission to find the site, using ground-penetrating radar, in the hope of exhuming and identifying more than 30 people, whose remains would be returned to their families.

Xavier Kompa, the head of the national veterans' office in Corrèze, told Agence France-Presse: "France is obliged to return these remains under the Geneva convention and a Franco-German accord signed in 1966."

He added that German authorities would decide where the remains will be taken.

Réveil said in the media that he used to know the exact spot of the incident, saying that he and three or four others had refused to take part in the killings but had witnessed them. But he said the foliage and landscape had changed considerably since then.

Réveil said the German soldiers and the unnamed female collaborator were part of a group who had been taken prisoner during an attack on the town of Tulle in June 1944. They were marched through the forest at night to an area near Meymac but it had been difficult to keep them captive. An order was given to shoot them; they were first forced to dig their own graves. He said the resistance officer in charge, who was from Alsace and spoke German, told them individually that they would be killed, and cried as he did so. Then each resistance fighter volunteered to shoot one person each. Réveil said he did not take part.

Central France was witness to particularly brutal killings in 1944, and Réveil's account places this incident as part of a buildup of violence. After resistance fighters had attacked German troops in Tulle in June, an SS division later hanged 99 men and deported 149 others, most of whom went on to die in concentration camps. The killings near Meymac described by Réveil took place days later. He told RTL radio it had been seen as "an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth".

In the same month, the village of Oradour-sur-Glane became the site of the worst Nazi massacre of civilians carried out on French soil when 642 people, including 247 children, were shot or burned alive, many inside the village's church.



▲ *Excavations will take place in Le Vert, an area near Meymac village*



▲ *A resident indicating the wooded area where the dig will take place*

48
The number of people killed: 47 German soldiers and one French woman accused of collaboration



◀ *Researchers use peanut butter to catch the bettongs, reintroduced into the Dhilba Guuranda-Innes park in South Australia, for check-ups*

PHOTOGRAPH: QUENTIN JONES/ THINK MAMMOTH

Bounce in numbers
Endangered marsupials thrive again

Graham Readfearn

'It's unifying and inspiring to see these animals succeeding and digging around in the landscape'

Chloe Frick
PhD student

The Australian bush was once full of rabbit-size marsupials darting and jumping around "like mini-kangaroos on steroids", says Derek Sandow, an ecologist.

But since the European invasion, the arrival of cats and foxes and the disappearance of habitat has left the brush-tailed bettong hanging on in only a handful of spots on the continent and on island refuges.

"They would have been one of the most common small mammals across the southern half of Australia," says Sandow. "But they've gone missing from almost the entire mainland."

However, a project that reintroduced the critically endangered bettongs to the Yorke peninsula in South Australia - a boot-shaped chunk of mainland that probably had not seen them for more than a century - is having a startling and unexpected success.

Since August 2021, 120 bettongs have been tagged and introduced to the Dhilba Guuranda-Innes national park on the peninsula's south-west tip. Chloe Frick, a PhD candidate at the University of Adelaide, estimates there may now be up to 200 bettongs.

"It's surpassing everyone's expectations," she says. "And it's down to a lot of people working really hard. It is unifying and inspiring to see these animals succeeding and digging around in the landscape."

The work is part of Marna Banggara, a project to restore lost native wildlife to the area, which is backed by the local landscape board and state and federal governments together with WWF-Australia, the Foundation for National Parks and Wildlife and the Narungga Nation Aboriginal Corporation, with backing of the Narungga people and a host of other groups.



▲ *The Yorke peninsula forms part of an ambitious nature project*

Sandow was among a team that went to the park in March to catch and check on the bettong population using cage traps with baits of peanut butter, oats and vanilla essence. "They're suckers for the peanut butter," he says.

Of the 85 caught, almost half did not have any tags or microchips from the original groups, meaning they were born on the peninsula.

Before releasing them back, Frick gathers an array of data, from health and size checks to DNA samples and swabs of their microbiome. Reintroducing the bettongs should see a cascade of positive effects. They are prolific diggers, with one single animal moving between two and six tonnes of soil a year; by digging, they improve the soil, spread seeds and create microclimates and water pools for bugs and plants to grow.

"They're an ecosystem engineer," Sandow says. "Their preferred food is fungi but they'll eat tubers and vegetation and insects in the soil. But they are really big diggers. We hope that's going to improve the bushland."

'Like being back in the USSR': Mariupol residents on life under occupation

Luke Harding
Kyiv

The mood in Mariupol has "changed dramatically", according to residents who thought Russia would stay for ever but are now expecting a swift Ukrainian military offensive to recapture the city.

In interviews with the Guardian, people said Mariupol had been transformed into a gloomy version of the Soviet Union since the last Ukrainian defenders holed up in the Azovstal steelworks surrendered to Russian troops a year ago.

"I feel as if I've fallen into some terrible submerged and downtrodden collective farm. The shops are primitive and the prices astronomical," one said. "The city isn't the one I knew. The people are not the same. Everything is changed. I have a permanent feeling of wanting to go home."

They said Russian flags flew above municipal buildings, soldiers were on the streets, and portraits of Vladimir Putin and the leader of the self-proclaimed republic in Donetsk, Denis Pushilin, hung in offices and schools.

The occupying authorities pulled down more than 300 blocks of flats which were destroyed when Russian forces besieged and pulverised the city. The centre was now an "empty wasteland", a resident said. "To me it looks awful. Everything is mutilated."

Flats have been given to collaborators. A few five-storey residential buildings have been repaired, with electricity, gas and other services mostly restored. Some residents are clinging on in ruined nine-storey blocks scheduled for demolition, without heating or light. Others have been forced to move into dormitories, where husbands and wives are separated and placed in same-sex rooms. "The conditions in hostels are bad. People don't want to leave their properties because they are worried about looting," one person said.

Mariupol was once a flourishing European city and port on the Sea of Azov. It was home to 480,000 people.



▲ *The centre of once-thriving Mariupol was now an 'empty wasteland', one resident said. 'Everything is mutilated'* PHOTOGRAPH: AFP/GETTY IMAGES

In 2014, Moscow and its armed proxies briefly seized the city, and on the eve of Russia's full-scale invasion last year, public opinion in Mariupol was split 50/50 between those who backed Kyiv, and those who sympathised with Putin, current and former residents said. In spring 2022, around half of the city's population escaped to Ukrainian government-controlled areas and European countries.

480,000

Population of Mariupol before the Russian invasion. Now, only about 120,000 people live in the city

Residents claimed the death toll in the city had been 100,000-120,000 – a figure significantly higher than the official toll of 21,000 given by Volodymyr Zelenskiy's government. One person said 25%-30% of their friends and acquaintances had died.

About 120,000 of Mariupol's original inhabitants survived and still live in the city. Of those, about 20% supported Ukraine's armed forces and were waiting for liberation, a resident said. "I think it's necessary to hang on," the person explained. The other 80% were divided equally between people who were indifferent to politics, and those who supported Russia and the city's new administration.

"This last group are now the majority," a resident said. "They are very afraid of the counteroffensive."

The resident continued: "The mood in Mariupol has changed dramatically. A year ago everybody thought Russia would win. There was no other scenario. Now even those who back Putin realise something is going on, and that Russia might actually lose. They are afraid there will be a battle. They understand that when the territory becomes Ukrainian again, they are finished. They will have to leave their homes and go to Russia for ever."

It remains to be seen whether Ukraine's long-anticipated counteroffensive can reach Mariupol. The city is just 35 miles from the Russian border and far from the current frontline. If Kyiv does retake the city, it will require a massive programme of reconstruction and development.

Natalya Dedova – a journalist who fled with her son after her husband was killed on 11 March 2022 – said its recapture would be "the cherry on the cake". But she cautioned: "It will be the last place we free. The Russians destroyed everything. So many people died. It will be like Chornobyl, a place of ghosts."

Stay in with up to 50% off



Last chance

If you're waiting for our biggest sale of the year – this is it. We all like to start the day feeling inspired, and by choosing a home delivery print subscription, you can cover the globe without ever stepping out the front door. Get comprehensive political coverage, insightful opinion and inspiring lifestyle pieces – for less.

Subscribe today by scanning the QR code or visit theguardian.com/spring-discount

Offer ends 21 May 2023

Package	Newsstand price per month	Subscription rate	Limited time offer price per month for 12 months	Saving
Every day	~~£93.60~~	~~£60.99~~	**£46.35**	**50% off**
Six day	~~£77.13~~	~~£53.99~~	**£41.03**	**46% off**
Weekend	~~£32.93~~	~~£24.99~~	**£18.99**	**42% off**
Saturday	~~£16.47~~	~~£13.99~~	**£10.63**	**35% off**
Sunday	~~£16.47~~	~~£13.99~~	**£10.63**	**35% off**

Prices above are monthly. Savings calculated are savings made per month against the retail price. Delivery is not included in the above pricing.

The Guardian | The Observer

T&Cs: Offer ends Sunday 21 May 2023. Open to UK mainland and NI residents aged 18+. The savings calculation is based upon the saving made per month against the retail price of all products included in the subscription package. The Guardian and Observer reserve the right to end this offer at any time. Details correct at the time of printing. For full subscription terms and conditions visit theguardian.com/subscription/terms.

Greek politicians court teenagers as young as 16 in tight election race



▼ *The Greek prime minister, Kyriakos Mitsotakis, poses for a selfie in Thessaloniki yesterday*
PHOTOGRAPH: SAKIS MITROLIDIS/GETTY

Helena Smith
Athens

Greek politicians are courting an estimated 430,000 generation Z voters, some as young as 16, in the first round of a general election on Sunday, taking to TikTok and YouTube to woo what could be a key demographic in what is seen as an unpredictable poll.

Less than three months after a 57 people died in a train crash in central Greece that many believe could have been avoided, the race in which Kyriakos Mitsotakis's centre-right government is defending its majority is tighter than expected. And with surveys predicting as much as 13% of the 8.5 million-strong electorate still undecided every vote counts.

"Because the train was full of students returning from vacation, the accident unleashed a huge emotional reaction among that segment of the population," said the veteran political commentator Pavlos Tzimas . "And women and young Greeks account for a sizeable proportion of the undecided bloc."

In the more than 40 years since Tzimas began observing general elections in Greece, the run-up to Sunday's poll marked the first time, he said, that political party leaders had sought to get on lifestyle TV talkshows that were popular with both groups. "Their vote could make a difference and politicians are nervous about what they will do," he told the Guardian.

New Democracy, the party of Mitsotakis, has invariably led polls despite its six-point edge over Syriza, the leftwing main opposition party, being dented by a wiretapping scandal and the 28 February rail crash - a tragedy that took a wrecking ball to the government's reformist narrative.

Forced on to the defensive, the 55-year-old prime minister was compelled to delay the election after acknowledging the accident could have been prevented if proper security measures had been enforced.

Only three EU countries allow teenagers under 18 to vote. In Greece's case youngsters were enfranchised under legislation passed by Alexis Tsipras, the Syriza leader catapulted into office on a radical agenda in 2015.

Tsipras, like Mitsotakis, has also taken to TikTok and YouTube to woo first-time voters. While the government has pledged to hand out a €150 youth pass - announcing the "coming of age" benefit barely two weeks before the poll - Syriza has sought to entice the younger generation by promising to scrap tough university entry requirements. Low interest loans for home purchases for 18 to 39-year-olds have also been unveiled.

"I hope they keep their promises," said Stella Papaconstantinou who has yet to turn 17 but by dint of being born in 2006 will be able to cast a ballot on Sunday. "I haven't decided who I will vote for. I've been trying to watch the news to be able to make a decision but in all honesty am not sure I should have been given this right at this age. I would have liked to have been a bit more mature."

A smile crosses Stefanos Tsiandis's face when talk turns to Greece's general election. As a first time voter, the teenager knew exactly which party he would be rooting for when he casts his ballot on Sunday. But that, he added, was rare.

"Our vote counts and mine will go to Pasok," said the economics student posing with the flag of the centre left party he had just waved at a campaign rally beneath the Acropolis. "It's disgusting how they're making all these promises to win our support. It says so much about our political system.

> *'It's disgusting how they're making all these promises to win our support'*
>
> **Stefanos Tsiandis**
> *First-time voter*

"It's really exciting," he said. "Maybe a lot are undecided but you can be sure they won't be backing the [centre right] government."

Mitsotakis has sought to emphasise the economic headway Greece has made under his stewardship since the height of its debt crisis and near ejection from the eurozone.

Tsipras, 48, has by contrast highlighted the nation's democratic backslide under Mitsotakis, calling the wiretapping scandal that included security services eavesdropping on Pasok's leader, Nikos Androulakis, a "disgrace."

The leftwing politician has vowed to combat inflation - blaming the cost of living crisis on vested interests - and improve public sector and health worker wages.

Marchers chant 'death to Arabs' and attack media on Jerusalem Day parade in Old City

Ben Lynfield
Quique Kierszenbaum
Jerusalem

Thousands of Israeli nationalists, some of them chanting racist slogans, have paraded through Jerusalem's Old City in an annual celebratory day for Israelis that became one of humiliation for Palestinians living under occupation.

The marchers, mostly male Orthodox teenagers and young men, were celebrating Israel's capture of East Jerusalem in 1967. The crowd waved blue and white Israeli flags and chanted slogans such as "death to Arabs" and "we will burn your village".

Authorities barred Palestinians from going through most gates into the Old City. One group of marchers threw rocks and bottles at members of the press, wounding three journalists, including a Palestinian reporter for Haaretz, who was struck in the neck, the paper's website reported.

Police said they had arrested two people and described the attack as an "isolated incident".

Ibrahim Hamad, 28, a Palestinian freelance journalist who was covering events at Damascus Gate, said the attack was unprovoked. "We were standing here as journalists and there were also some women wearing hijabs near us," he said. "Groups of extremist Zionists started throwing glass bottles and sticks. I believe they were trying to stop us from showing what they are doing."

A Palestinian community leader, Fakhri Abu Diab, was outside al-Aqsa mosque giving a telephone interview with Israel's Ynet news when four police officers approached him.

One grabbed his phone and threw it on the ground, breaking it, he said. He was then forced out of the mosque compound, held at a street corner for an hour and a half, and told not to return to the Old City. "This is the Israeli police," he said. "We are facing apartheid."

The Ynet senior editor, Nir Cohen, said: "In the middle of an interview, a policeman arrives and throws his phone away just for the sake of it."

Israel's prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, called the event a "splendid day on which to celebrate our return to our eternal capital".

But Abu Diab called Jerusalem Day "a bad day, the day they occupied us. It's a catastrophe for us."

In brief

United States

Handwritten Hebrew Bible sells for $38m

A 1,100-year-old Hebrew Bible that is one of the oldest surviving biblical manuscripts has sold for $38m (£31m) in New York.

Sotheby's said the leather-bound Codex Sassoon, a nearly complete Hebrew Bible handwritten on parchment, was bought for donation to the ANU Museum of the Jewish People in Tel Aviv.

It got its name in 1929 when it was purchased by David Solomon Sassoon for his London home. It was bought in 1978 by the British Rail Pension Fund, which sold it later for about £6.2m in today's money to the banker Jacqui Safra, the latest seller. **AP** *New York*

New Zealand

Man charged with arson after fatal fire at hostel

A man has been charged with arson after a fire in a hostel in Wellington, New Zealand, in which at least six people died.

The man, who has not been named, is due in court today. Police are not seeking anyone else over the blaze on Tuesday and have not ruled out more serious charges. It is not clear how many residents at the 92-room Loafers Lodge are still missing. Police said they believed there were "less than 20" unaccounted for. Only two bodies have so far been recovered.

None of the victims have been named. **Charlotte Graham-McLay** *Wellington*

United States

Man charged with theft of Wizard of Oz slippers

A man has been charged with stealing a pair of ruby red slippers worn by Judy Garland as Dorothy in The Wizard of Oz.

The shoes were stolen while on loan to the Judy Garland Museum in Grand Rapids, Minnesota, in 2005 and recovered in a 2018 FBI sting operation, but no arrests were made at the time. This week a grand jury indicted Terry Martin with one count of theft of a major artwork, said federal prosecutors in North Dakota.

When they were stolen, the slippers were insured for $1m but the current market value is about $3.5m (£2.8m). **AP**



Montana becomes first US state to ban TikTok over China links

Dani Anguiano and agencies

Montana has become the first US state to ban TikTok after the governor signed legislation prohibiting app stores from offering the app within the state by next year.

The move is among the most dramatic in a series of US escalations against TikTok, which is owned by the Chinese tech company ByteDance. TikTok has come under increasing scrutiny over its ties to China, amid concerns that such links could pose a national security threat.

The federal government, and more than half of US states, have prohibited the app on government devices and the Biden administration has threatened a national ban unless its parent company sells its shares.

The company has previously denied that it has ever shared data with the Chinese government and has said it would not do so if asked.

In a statement, TikTok said the bill "infringes on the first amendment rights of the people of Montana by unlawfully banning TikTok", and that the company intended to "defend the rights of our users inside and outside of Montana".

In March, TikTok's chief executive, Shou Zi Chew, was forced to defend his firm's relationship with China at a bipartisan congressional hearing, with lawmakers also grilling him on the social network's impact on the mental health of young people.

TikTok is one of the world's most popular social networks with more than 100 million US users, and questions remain about how such bans will be enforced.

Montana's new law, which will take effect on 1 January, prohibits downloads of TikTok in the state and would fine any "entity" - an app store or TikTok - $10,000 (£8,000) per day for each time someone "is offered the ability" to access the social media platform or download the app. The penalties would not apply to users.

Montana's ban is expected to face legal challenges, and will serve as a testing ground for the TikTok-free America that many national lawmakers have envisioned.

Greg Gianforte, Montana's governor, also prohibited the use of all social media applications that collect and provide personal information or data to foreign adversaries on government-issued devices. Among the apps he listed are WeChat, whose parent company is based in China, and Telegram Messenger, which was founded in Russia.

> *'[This] tramples on the free speech of Montanans who use it to express themselves'*
>
> **Carl Szabo**
> *NetChoice vice-president*

Opponents see the measure as government overreach and say Montana residents could easily circumvent the ban by using a virtual private network, which shields internet users by encrypting their data traffic.

Internet freedom advocates and others have criticised the US crackdown as amounting to censorship.

Keegan Medrano, policy director for the civil liberties group ACLU of Montana, said the legislature "trampled on the free speech of hundreds of thousands of Montanans who use the app to express themselves, gather information and run their small business, in the name of anti-Chinese sentiment".

NetChoice, a trade group that counts TikTok among its members, called the bill unconstitutional. "This is a clear violation of the constitution, which prohibits the government from blocking Americans from accessing constitutionally protected speech online via websites or apps," said Carl Szabo, the group's vice-president.



Veiled interest
A model on the catwalk showing off a creation by the label Speed at Australian fashion week in Sydney yesterday.

PHOTOGRAPH: MACKENZIE SWEETNAM/GETTY

Aviation's year of lost luggage: 26m bags went astray in 2022

Elias Visontay

It was the year of "the summer of lost luggage", in which travellers across the world told of disappearing bags as the aviation industry struggled to keep up with rebounding demand. Now, newly collated statistics show the extent of the disruption: the rate of mishandled baggage almost doubled globally in 2022, with 26m pieces delayed, lost or damaged.

That mishandled luggage rate soared to 7.6 bags per 1,000 passengers in 2022, up from 4.35 in 2021 and 5.6 in 2019, a report from the aviation data company Sita found.

For international flights, the mishandling rate was 19.3 bags per 1,000 passengers, more than eight times higher than the rate of 2.4 for domestic flights. This was largely because flight transfers were more likely on international journeys, said Sita's chief executive, David Lavorel. Errors during flight transfers were the largest contributor to mishandled bags in 2022, accounting for 42% of affected luggage.

"The swift comeback [after Covid] took the industry by surprise," Lavorel said, leaving ground handlers scrambling to navigate the surge in traffic with reduced staff.

There were 3.42 billion air passengers in 2022, up from 2.28 billion in 2021 but still down from the pre-pandemic peak of 4.54 billion in 2019.

Nicole Hogg, a baggage expert with Sita, said one consequence of the abrupt return of demand for air travel was the emergence of "baggage mountains". "The sudden influx of travellers caught the industry off guard," she said.

Mishandling rates were considerably worse for airlines operating in Europe, with a rate of 15.7 mishandled bags per 1,000 passengers, compared with 6.35 in North America and 3.04 in the Asia-Pacific region.

Hogg said that the collapse in air traffic during the pandemic had forced many workers into new industries, and the sector was still hampered by labour and skills shortages and inexperienced workers fresh to aviation.



▲ *Police at St Peter's Square in Vatican City after the incident*

Man arrested after car driven through gate to Vatican palace

Associated Press
Rome

A car driven by a man apparently suffering from mental health problems has rammed through a Vatican gate, speeding past the Swiss Guard into a palace courtyard before the driver was apprehended by police.

Vatican gendarmes fired a shot at the car's front tyres after it rushed the gate last night, but the vehicle managed to continue on its way, the Vatican press office said.

Once the car reached the San Damaso courtyard of the Apostolic Palace, the driver got out and was immediately arrested by the gendarmes. The Vatican said the driver was about 40 years old and was in a "serious state of psychophysical alteration". He was being held in the Vatican barracks.

It was not clear whether Pope Francis was anywhere near the incident, which occurred after 8pm local time at the Sant' Anna gate, one of the main entrances to the Vatican City state in the heart of Rome. The pope lives on the other side of Vatican City in the Casa Santa Marta, where at that hour he would normally be having dinner and retiring to his room.

The Vatican statement said that as soon as the gendarmes sounded the alarm for an incursion, the main gate blocking access to the piazza in front of Francis's hotel was shut.

The incident was a rare incursion into the city state, much of which is off limits to the general public, especially at night.

While visitors can access St Peter's Basilica and the Vatican museums during business hours, and people with doctor's prescriptions can go to the Vatican pharmacy, permission is required to enter other buildings in the enclave.

The Apostolic Palace, which houses the papal apartments, key reception rooms, the Vatican archives and offices, is guarded around the clock by the Swiss Guard and gendarmes who staff checkpoints.

It was not the first time someone with apparent mental health problems has caused a disturbance at the Vatican. During a 2009 Christmas Eve mass, a woman jumped the barricade of St Peter's Basilica and tried to attack Pope Benedict XVI. He was not harmed, though a cardinal walking in the procession broke his hip in the chaos.

FTSE 100	All share	Dow Indl	Nikkei 225	£/€	£/$
+19.07	+11.28	-155.89	+480.34	1.1521	1.2408
7742.30	4221.45	33264.88	30573.93	0.0000	-0.0059

Business



'Quality of service has been significantly affected by industrial action'

Keith Williams
Royal Mail chair

Royal Mail will save £150m over the next financial year by cutting 10,000 jobs, IDS said
PHOTOGRAPH: AMER GHAZZAL/REX/SHUTTERSTOCK

Royal Mail blames £1bn loss on strikes and static productivity

Kalyeena Makortoff

Royal Mail has reported a £1bn loss, with bosses blaming strike action and a failure to increase productivity for its poor performance during a year in which it cut 10,000 jobs.

The poor performance led International Distributions Services (IDS), which owns Royal Mail, to report an overall loss of £748m for the year to 26 March. That compares with a profit of £577m a year earlier.

IDS said Royal Mail swung to a loss "due to industrial action" by unionised staff over pay and working conditions that eventually led to the resignation of its chief executive, Simon Thompson, last week, as well as an "inability to deliver the in-year benefits of planned productivity improvements".

While the company finally reached a deal that the union agreed to put to its membership last month, the postal service also suffered a drop in demand for Covid test kit deliveries, as well as a dip in online shopping. Those problems overshadowed what IDS said were successful efforts to cut costs and "rightsize" the business in the second half of the financial year.

Those efforts included slashing 10,000 jobs at Royal Mail, which will save about £150m over the next financial year. IDS's chief financial officer, Mick Jeavons, said "there is no further job cut plan, or target".

However, further cost cuts may still be made. "We'll continue to revise and improve performance in all our units every year," the Royal Mail chair, Keith Williams, said.

The company said its deal with the Communications Workers Union opened the door for "further operational efficiencies".

Royal Mail, which was privatised in 2013, has spent nearly a decade trying to revamp the business. While the pay deal will cost about £600m, IDS said it would largely be covered by cost cuts over the next two years.

Williams said there was now a "clear path towards a more competitive and profitable Royal Mail, delivering improved services for our customers while further reducing our environmental impact".

Bosses have not ruled out plans to break up the business. "That's not our current intention. We feel we're moving forward, but it is still an option if we don't," Williams said.

But he acknowledged: "Quality of service has been significantly affected by industrial action and high levels of absence … Improving quality of service is our top priority.

"Our plan is to return to group profitability this year but also seize the opportunity for both businesses to deliver ongoing profits thereafter."

IDS stock fell the furthest on the FTSE 250 in early trading, down 3.2%.

Era of runaway house price rises may be over for UK – economist

Rupert Jones

The era of "massive" house price rises in the UK may be about to end, according to a senior economist at the government's spending watchdog.

David Miles, a member of a key committee at the Office for Budget Responsibility, said one of the key factors that would make runaway house price growth less likely in future was the increase in working from home since the pandemic, giving many people more options about where they can live.

Miles, who has also served on the Bank of England's monetary policy committee, added that the other two forces that would shape the UK housing market and prices over the coming decades were slower population growth and changes in borrowing costs – namely, the end of the era of record-low interest rates.

"Those forces driving prices up are going to be much weaker, I suspect, in the next 40 years than they have been in the past 40 years," he said in a speech at the Economic Statistics Centre of Excellence's conference in London, reported by Bloomberg. "If anything, this unusual age of massive rises of house prices may be nearing an end."

Miles said the UK had seen particularly rapid house-price growth compared with other countries because it had suffered from a weaker supply of housing, and had seen lower interest rates.

The pressure for more houses is likely to ease as the population grows more slowly, added the economist, who is a member of the OBR's budget responsibility committee, where he takes the lead on economic analysis.

The housing market has recently moved up the agenda for both the main political parties, with the Labour leader, Keir Starmer, this week saying that he believed property prices should come down to make homes more affordable. He also accused the Conservatives of killing the dream of home ownership, and said his party would be "the builders, not the blockers".

The lender Halifax recently reported that the UK "should expect some further downward pressure on house prices" this year.

Ballooning loss results in sale of Middleton party shop

Joanna Partridge

The online party supplies shop founded by the parents of the Princess of Wales has been sold after collapsing into administration.

Party Pieces, founded in 1987 by Kate Middleton's parents, Carole and Michael Middleton, was bought out of administration yesterday by the entrepreneur James Sinclair. It has not been disclosed how much Sinclair paid to buy the business and its assets in a pre-pack administration, first reported by Sky News.

Will Wright and Chris Pole from the financial restructuring firm Interpath Advisory were appointed joint administrators to Party Pieces yesterday, and immediately sold the business to Sinclair's Teddy Tastic Bear Co, which will also take on the company's 12 employees.

Sinclair is described on his personal website as "the founder and CEO of the Partyman group of companies", including leisure and childcare businesses and outdoor attractions. His assets also include the Rossi Ice Cream Company, which has produced ice-cream in Essex since 1932.

The sale of Party Pieces marks the end of the Middletons' ownership of a business they founded in 1987, which had run into trouble in recent years.

While the couple are the shareholders in the business, it is not known if they are also creditors. Shareholders tend to receive very little, if anything, if a company is bought out of administration.

Carole Middleton has previously described how she was inspired to set up the company after failing to find suitable party supplies in the shops for Kate's fifth birthday party. She subsequently started the business from the kitchen table at the family's home in Berkshire.

Party Pieces suffered a fall in trade during the Covid lockdowns that put a stop to celebrations.

It made a loss of almost £286,000 after tax in 2021, according to its most recent accounts. The company said the loss resulted from continued investment in growth plans.



The Princess of Wales's parents founded Party Pieces in 1987

Business view
Nils Pratley



Demergers, daily deliveries, a union vote: Royal Mail will be delivering plenty more intrigue

"We have grounds for optimism," said Keith Williams, chair of Royal Mail's parent company, adopting a tone that hasn't been heard from the boardroom in a while. What's more, you can see what he means. While a full-year "adjusted" operating loss of £419m at Royal Mail is nobody's idea of a comfortable outcome, the number was no worse than advertised in January, which is something.

Meanwhile, after a year of strife and strikes, a deal on pay and working practices has been agreed with the leadership of the Communication Workers Union. The union's members have yet to vote on the proposal - and some on social media sound less than enthused - but one assumes it will get over the line. The looming exit of unpopular Royal Mail boss Simon Thompson may even be good for a few votes.

Plain sailing from here, then? Not quite. Royal Mail still has to secure the operational gains from the deal with the CWU, and targeted savings have had a habit of not materialising fully. The planned return to operating profit, ignoring voluntary redundancy costs, in the 2024-25 financial year is not secure yet. But, yes, the position definitely looks better than it was two months ago.

Do not, though, overlook two other factors that were subplots to the industrial dispute and have potential to turn explosive in time. Neither has disappeared.

First, Williams made clear yesterday that the idea of breaking up International Distributions Services (IDS), as the parent is now known, is still on the table. In other words, GLS, the successful Amsterdam-based international parcels operator, could still be demerged to leave Royal Mail as a standalone company.

IDS could pitch a demerger as a plain-vanilla proposal since companies demerge all the time and GLS is Dutch, but, in practice, life probably would not be so straightforward. Political aggro in the UK would be the way to bet. Darren Jones, the Labour chair of the business select committee, was on the radio only this week sounding unhappy about the degree of internal separation and limits on cross-subsidy from GLS (profit-making to the tune of £348m last year) to Royal Mail that has already taken place. After a demerger, note, GLS would be free to compete in the UK against Royal Mail and its Parcelforce unit.

It's not clear what IDS would regard as a trigger for a spin-off - the persistence of a mediocre share price? - but until it makes its intentions clear, it's an issue that will bubble in the background.



▲ *A picket line last September. The threat of industrial action is still live*

> *The group thinks the requirement to deliver letters six days a week to every address in the land needs reform. And it surely has a point*

The other potential battle is one where the group definitely knows what it wants: it thinks the Universal Service Obligation (USO), the requirement on Royal Mail to deliver letters six days a week to every address in the land if necessary, needs reform.

And it surely has a point. The USO, in its current form, was designed in an era before the volume of letters plunged, and many other European countries have watered down their regimes. Some 97% of users in Ofcom's last survey said their postal needs would be met by a five-day-a-week letter service. (Saturday would be the day to be dropped.) And the savings, last estimated by the regulator to be £125m-£225m, might be usefully recycled in strengthening the parcel-related provisions of the USO.

The company's problem, though, is that only parliament can change the USO and the government has said it has no current plans, while Labour has said next to nothing. Royal Mail is also poorly placed to plead for relief while its reported delivery standards, now being investigated by Ofcom, are so far short of the mark. Sooner or later, though, the USO issue will come centre stage. Royal Mail's corporate life is not about to become dull.

The Guardian Live

Upcoming events



Marina Hyde on tour

In June Marina Hyde will join fellow Guardian writers for three special events to look back on the last few years of political chaos, celebrity madness, royal rumpuses, and toxic tyrants.

Join her live in London with Jonathan Freedland, in Leeds with Gaby Hinsliff and in Brighton with Gary Younge. Livestream tickets will also be available.

1-13 June

Online | In-person

AI: Should we be worried or excited?
The Guardian's technology editor Alex Hern and a panel of international experts will navigate the big questions facing us around artifical intelligence.
Tuesday 23 May, 8pm-9pm

Samantha Irby and Elizabeth Day
The bestselling author Samantha Irby will join Elizabeth Day for a special livestreamed event to introduce her new essay collection, Quietly Hostile.
Wednesday 24 May 8pm-9pm

Book now at theguardian.com/live-events or scan the QR code

@GuardianLive

Veg box firm Riverford to be fully staff-owned as founder sells stake for £9.8m





◀ *Picking strawberries and feeding calves at the Riverford organic farm*
PHOTOGRAPHS: PHIL CLARKE HILL/GIDEON MENDEL/IN PICTURES/CORBIS/GETTY

Sarah Butler

The organic vegetable box company Riverford is to become 100% owned by its staff after its founder, Guy Singh-Watson, agreed to sell his remaining 23% stake for almost £10m.

Singh-Watson, who sold nearly three-quarters of the company to employees in 2018, will take a £9.8m payment over five years and immediately hand full control to a trust on behalf of 900 staff who each receive an annual profit share and participate in the running of the business.

The 63-year-old farmer said the deal, which will take the total paid for his shares in the business to £14m since 2018, did not mark his retirement and he would continue to be involved as a trustee, non-executive director and spokesperson.

"Founders find negotiating this transition to their successors incredibly difficult and painful and most people make a bit of a mess of it," he said. "Founders can hang around too long and I don't want to be that person who needs to be told to go."

Singh-Watson said a proportion of the cash he was receiving would be invested in more solar power and agroforestry on his own farms – in Devon and France – with some going to the Ripple Effect charity, which helps farmers overseas, and local community projects in Devon.

The sailing and surfing fan said he also planned to spend a bit of his payout on himself but was "not remotely interested in fancy cars or boats". He added: "After much consideration and despite the example set by many politicians … I have decided to make no attempts to avoid tax liability on the sale of the shares.

"I've not set up trusts to avoid tax, even though much of the money will end up supporting charitable projects. I will pay my tax as others who can't afford creative accountants do, and I strongly support the idea of a wealth tax."

> *'I have decided to make no attempts to avoid tax liability on the sale of the shares'*
>
> **Guy Singh-Watson**
> *Founder, Riverford*

Singh-Watson said the shift to employee ownership had been influenced by the John Lewis Partnership, owner of the Waitrose supermarket chain which his farm once supplied. He expressed dismay that the larger company had been reportedly considering selling a stake to investors in order to raise cash.

"I suspect that would be the beginning of the end," he said, urging John Lewis to stick with employee ownership and downsize rather than borrow large sums.

Riverford's employee ownership deal comes after a tricky few years for the veg box company. Although it enjoyed a boom in orders during the pandemic lockdowns, many customers have since returned to shopping in supermarkets and local stores.

Sales slid 12% to £97m and profits, before tax and payment of a profit share to staff, shrank to £3m in the year to the end of last month, from £6.2m a year before amid increases in the cost of produce, labour, distribution and energy.

However, the group now delivers 65,000 boxes a week compared with 50,000 when it made the first move to employee ownership, while sales have risen by more than 50% in that time.

"Riverford is a powerful example of the potential that can be unlocked through employee ownership," said James de le Vingne, the chief executive of the Employee Ownership Association.

Rob Haward, the managing director of Riverford, said staff ownership protected the group's "values and purpose" in a way that a sale to new owners who might have "quite different motives" might not.

"Not being beholden to a small group of shareholders who want a quick return enables us to think long term," he said, adding that the arrangement "makes for a leaner and more motivated business and the structure helps decision making".

He said trading had stabilised after the pandemic boom and subsequent retreat and there was now room for growth as concern about "protection of the planet and fair treatment of farmers is coming back into the consciousness of consumers".

However, the group was forced to put up the price of its vegetable boxes by about 5% in October, and Haward said it was likely to have to consider a similar price rise this summer as the cost of producing its vegetables had soared.

Tourist VAT change is hitting retailers, says Burberry boss

Sarah Butler

The boss of Burberry has complained that the UK is at a "competitive disadvantage for global shoppers", which has held back sales in its home market after the government ditched a VAT tax break for tourists.

Jonathan Akeroyd, the chief executive of the luxury British brand best known for its signature check and raincoats, said sales to tourists had risen 19% in London in the three months to April but they had tripled in Paris and were up 43% in Milan.

He said total sales had risen 28% in the UK for the year as locals and visitors from Europe, the US, Asia and the Middle East spent more, but he noted a big surge in UK tourists, who still enjoy tax breaks abroad, spending in Europe, "which is quite telling".

He said: "We are disappointed the government chose to scrap the VAT retail export scheme. It leaves the UK at a competitive disadvantage for global shoppers. We are celebrating the fact that we are a British luxury brand and very hopeful that when tourists come to the UK they are coming to Burberry. We are really hoping this [tax change] can be revisited."

Akeroyd's comments come after the chair of Burberry, Gerry Murphy, described Brexit as a "drag on growth" and said it had left Britain nursing the "weakest" Covid recovery among its big markets.

Murphy told the prime minister, Rishi Sunak, that a decision to remove VAT refunds in 2020 had hurt the economy and was a "spectacular own goal".

A string of other companies, including British Airways, Mulberry and Fortnum & Mason, have called on the chancellor, Jeremy Hunt, to reverse the decision.

The latest criticism of government policy came as Burberry reported a 10% rise in sales to £3.1bn in the year to 1 April with underlying sales growth rising to 16% in the final quarter of the year from 7% across the year as a whole thanks to a resurgence in China after pandemic restrictions were eased in January. Annual pre-tax profits rose 24% to £634m.

Underlying sales rose 13% in China in the fourth quarter. Akeroyd said the trade from Chinese nationals – within China and overseas – had recovered to 30% of Burberry's total sales, although it was still short of the 40% registered pre-pandemic.

Akeroyd said China was "a key part of our growth ambition", as he was hopeful of a return of the country's tourists to Europe as well as spending in their homeland.



43%

Rise in Burberry's sales in Milan, against a 19% increase in London in the same three-month period

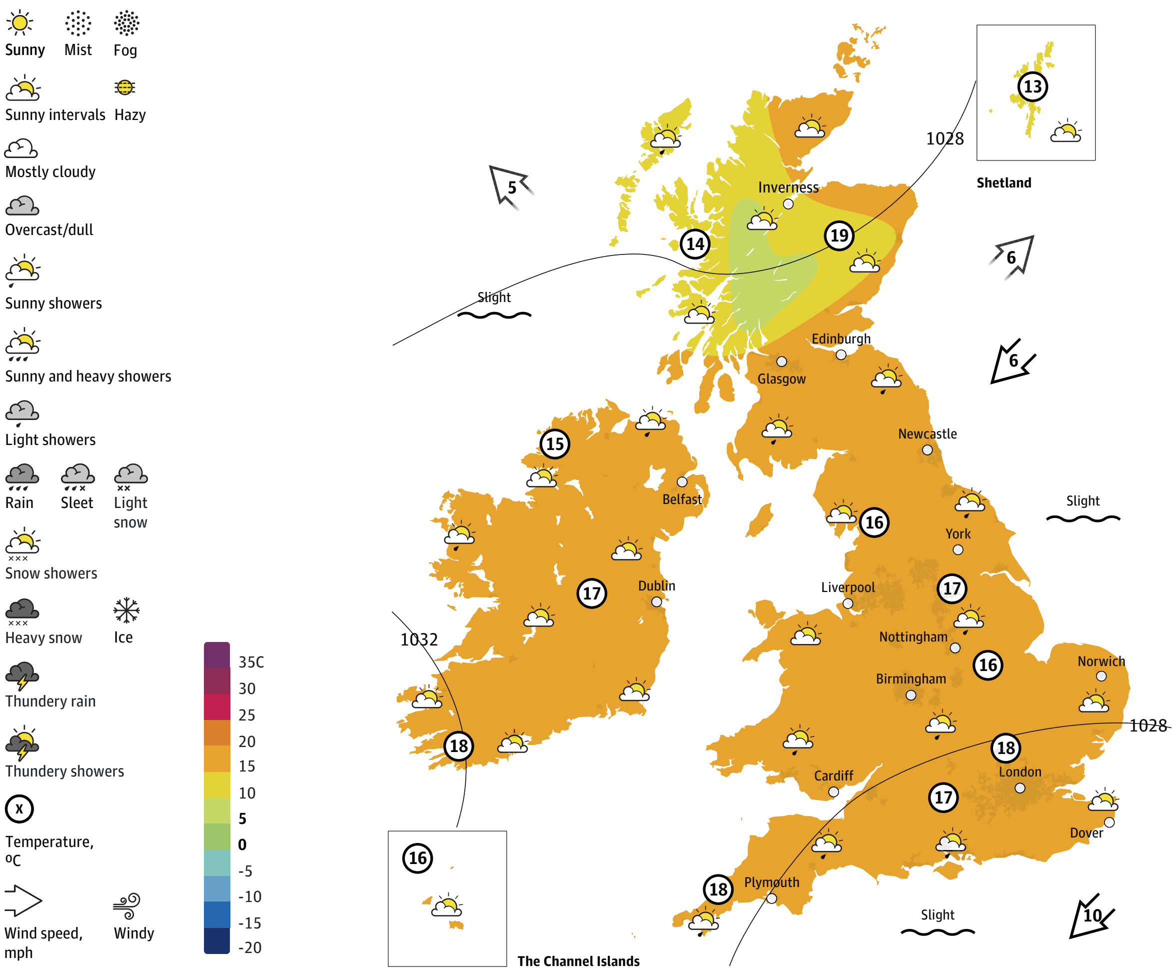
Burberry also reported a strong rebound in Europe, the Middle East and elsewhere in Asia but sales fell 7% in the US, as economic difficulties held back sales of the lower-priced items, such as trainers, belts and hats, favoured by younger shoppers.

Akeroyd said Burberry's brand repositioning to a more British-focused aesthetic under its new creative director, Daniel Lee, was going well, helping the company sell more of its core products – with sales of traditional raincoats doubling – before the designer's new products reach stores this autumn.

He said: "We have had significant changes in creative and executive leadership and I am really proud that we have been able to achieve these results given everything that's happened both externally and internally."

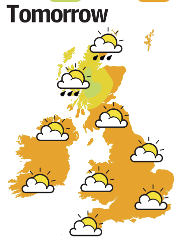
Weather
Friday 19 May 2023

UK and Ireland Noon today

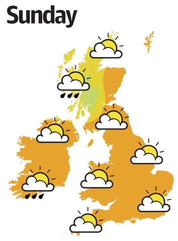


Forecast

Low 8 High 19
Tomorrow



Low 7 High 19
Sunday



Carbon count

Daily atmospheric CO_2 readings from Mauna Loa, Hawaii (ppm):

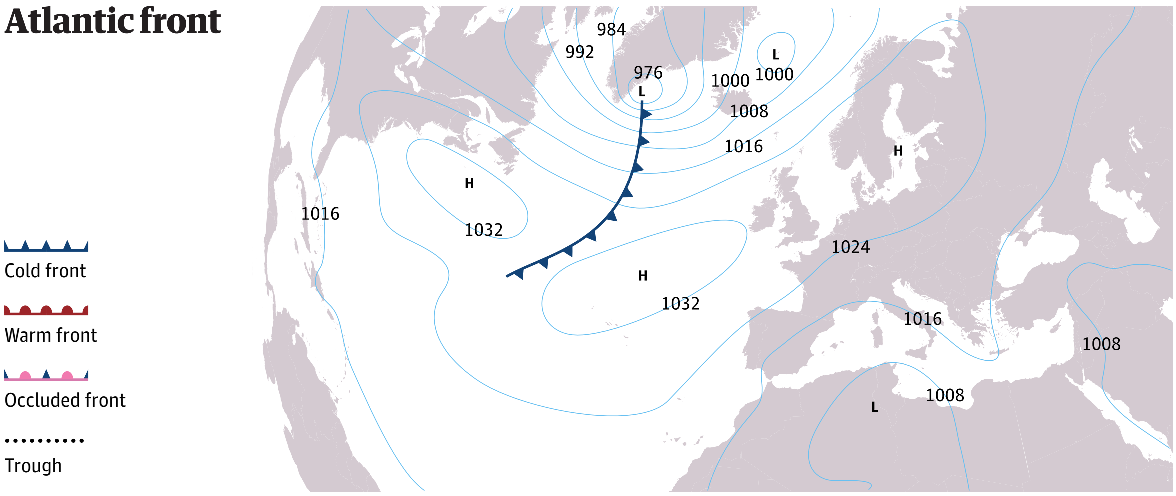
Latest	
15 May 2023	424.27
Weekly average	
07 May 2023	424.29
18 May 2022	420.75
18 May 2013	399.74
Pre-industrial base	*280*
Safe level	*350*

Source: NOAA-ESRL

Around the UK

	Lows and highs		Precipitation	Air pollution
London	7	18	65%	Low
Manchester	8	18	25%	Low
Edinburgh	7	17	80%	Low
Belfast	10	17	20%	Low
Birmingham	7	16	85%	Low
Brighton	8	16	5%	Low
Bristol	9	17	85%	Low
Cardiff	9	17	85%	Low
Newcastle	5	16	25%	Low
Penzance	11	16	85%	Low

Atlantic front

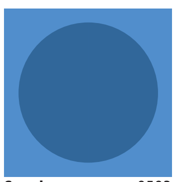


High tides

Source: © Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Times are local UK times

Aberdeen	**0148**	4.1m	**1359**	4.2m
Avonmouth	**0747**	13.1m	**2007**	13.1m
Barrow	**--**	--	**1203**	9.3m
Belfast	**--**	--	**1147**	3.5m
Cobh	**0559**	4.0m	**1820**	4.0m
Cromer	**0712**	4.8m	**1916**	5.0m
Dover	**--**	--	**1154**	6.5m
Dublin	**0006**	3.8m	**1219**	4.0m
Galway	**0540**	5.0m	**1757**	5.1m
Greenock	**0050**	3.3m	**1310**	3.4m
Harwich	**--**	--	**1225**	4.0m
Holyhead	**1052**	5.5m	**2316**	5.4m
Hull	**0653**	7.2m	**1902**	7.5m
Leith	**0300**	5.4m	**1515**	5.5m
Liverpool	**--**	--	**1141**	9.2m
London Bridge	**0210**	7.0m	**1437**	6.8m
Lossiemouth	**0014**	3.9m	**1226**	4.0m
Milford Haven	**0645**	6.8m	**1904**	6.8m
Newquay	**0537**	6.7m	**1755**	6.7m
North Shields	**0355**	4.9m	**1605**	5.0m
Oban	**0618**	3.9m	**1827**	3.8m
Penzance	**0510**	5.4m	**1730**	5.4m
Plymouth	**0618**	5.3m	**1839**	5.3m
Portsmouth	**--**	--	**1155**	4.5m
Southport	**1116**	8.9m	**2345**	8.8m
Stornoway	**0719**	4.7m	**1943**	4.6m
Weymouth	**0638**	1.2m	**1858**	1.3m
Whitby	**0430**	5.3m	**1642**	5.5m
Wick	**--**	--	**1155**	3.3m
Workington	**--**	--	**1204**	8.1m

Sun & Moon



Sun rises	0503
Sun sets	2051
Moon rises	0443
Moon sets	2109
New Moon	19 May

Forecasts and graphics provided by **AccuWeather** ©2023

Lighting up

Belfast	2131 to 0511
Birm'ham	2102 to 0504
Brighton	2048 to 0505
Bristol	2101 to 0513
Carlisle	2119 to 0456
Cork	2126 to 0534
Dublin	2125 to 0518
Glasgow	2130 to 0457
Harlech	2113 to 0512
Inverness	2139 to 0446
London	2051 to 0501
M'chester	2108 to 0502
Newcastle	2115 to 0451
Norwich	2051 to 0451
Penzance	2107 to 0530

Pollutionwatch

A wealth of new research shows that air pollution is harming our brain health, including our mental health, and increasing the risk of dementia. A new report has outlined what we should do next.

Research in this area began about 20 years ago with the discovery of brain changes in pet dogs in chronically polluted Mexico City.

Evidence accumulated over the past five years includes a study from Spain showing that air pollution can affect children's brain development. Research on 1,700 Londoners showed increased mental health problems with exposure to air pollution, and a Department of Health and Social Care committee concluded it was likely that air pollution accelerated cognitive decline in older people.

It is likely that damage to brain health accumulates slowly from the air pollution that we breathe each day. The new report, from a group at Durham University, calls for this risk to be recognised across the government, along with an audit of existing policies to fast-track actions that reduce exposure to air pollution through our whole lives. These include low-pollution school zones and the development of dementia-friendly communities.
Gary Fuller *@drgaryfuller*

Around the world

Algiers	18	Lisbon	26
Ams'dam	18	Madrid	22
Athens	23	Malaga	21
Auckland	20	Melb'rne	15
B Aires	18	Mexico C	27
Bangkok	39	Miami	32
Barcelona	19	Milan	17
Basra	37	Mombasa	31
Beijing	27	Moscow	16
Berlin	19	Mumbai	33
Bermuda	23	N Orleans	31
Brussels	17	Nairobi	26
Budapest	22	New Delhi	40
C'hagen	15	New York	20
Cairo	28	Oslo	17
Cape Town	17	Paris	18
Chicago	20	Perth	25
Corfu	24	Prague	15
Dakar	27	Reykjavik	11
Dhaka	31	Rio de J	24
Dublin	16	Rome	21
Florence	18	Shanghai	26
Gibraltar	22	Singapore	31
H Kong	32	Stockh'm	19
Harare	27	Strasb'g	18
Helsinki	17	Sydney	18
Istanbul	18	Tel Aviv	23
Jo'burg	17	Tenerife	25
K Lumpur	33	Tokyo	22
K'mandu	27	Toronto	22
Kabul	27	Vancouv'r	20
Kingston	32	Vienna	17
Kolkata	35	Warsaw	15
L Angeles	23	Wash'ton	22
Lagos	31	Well'ton	17
Lima	24	Zurich	17

Football
Owls overturn 4-0 deficit to reach Wembley
Page 38 →

Rugby union
Franco Smith on Glasgow's push for European glory
Interview, page 37 →



Sport



▲ *Cambridge United's Sam Smith and George Thomas celebrate with the fans after securing their League One survival on the last day*
ALAN WALTER/SHUTTERSTOCK

Abbey ever after

They were on the pitch and it was all over ... but I was 10,000 miles away

Max Rushden



It is fascinating what football can do to you. Twenty minutes after the full-time whistle had blown in the final games of the League One season I was alone in silence in a tiny radio studio at 11.30pm in Melbourne with tears in my eyes, watching Cambridge United players being held aloft by fans on the Abbey Stadium turf after they had avoided relegation. I looked at those fans, running on the pitch in random directions like a mob of meerkats released from a pen. Going this way and that, hugging strangers, not really knowing where to go before congregating in a disorganised mass in the middle of the pitch. I wished I was there.

But more overwhelming was the sense of nostalgia. The memories of being there as a teenager and in my 20s. Winning the Third Division title in 1991 - we were on the pitch celebrating promotion when the PA announced the score from Roots Hall. Southend 0 Brentford 1. Champions.

Scott Rendell scoring in the 119th minute to overturn a 3-1 deficit to get to the Conference playoff final in 2009. Running on to the pitch and sharing quite a moving applause with those Stevenage fans in the away end who were still there. We lost the final.

Back then it felt as if I'd always be there for those moments. This time I celebrated in a WhatsApp group with champagne cork and party hat emojis. None of us was there. Life, work, love has taken almost all of us away from our home. I wanted to dive into the laptop and talk to those young fans like a tragic footballing Baz Luhrmann. It won't always be like this, savour it.

The ordeal of the previous two hours was broadcast on TalkSport in what can only be described as unprofessional and agonising radio, but I think all fans could empathise. Here was all the pain while loosely trying to concentrate on a review of yesterday's Premier League action. A lovely Nottingham Forest podcaster called Sandeep was discussing the signing of Jonjo Shelvey not quite working out as Sam Smith struck a Van Basten-esque volley with his wrong foot in off the far post.

I let out an involuntary cry. "GET IN! Sorry". "Have you scored?" he asked politely. "Two-nil. Two-nil. Brilliant finish from Sam Smith. Sorry, you were mid-flow," I said, laughing and grinning. "That was really unprofessional, I do apologise." Sandeep understood.

Our game was won by half-time. Now to wait as Morecambe looked for something at Exeter and MK Dons searched for a goal at Burton. Superstition set in. I couldn't change anything on the screen. Exeter were ahead. Now it was all down to Burton. WhatsApp told me that MK Dons were peppering their goal. All I could see were the scores down the right side of the BBC Sport website. Burton 0 MK Dons 0.

The minutes ticked by. I wanted to see what was going on. But I also didn't, couldn't face it. Fans at the Abbey had stopped watching the game in front of them, instead finding dodgy streams on their phones of the Pirelli stadium. Top comedian Justin Moorhouse joined the show for his weekly Guess the Attendance. Cambridge's game had finished. Morecambe were losing. "You don't want to know that MK Dons have just scored." My face went white. "Please don't tell me that" ... pause ... "No, they haven't" ... exhale. "Mate, I don't think that's funny."

"I thought it was funny," replied co-host Barry Glendenning. Witnessing someone else's footballing pain can give anyone great joy. "I think in the interests of quality radio entertainment and hashtag content MK Dons have a duty to score in the next two minutes. MK Dons owe it to our listeners to score a goal between now and two o'clock."

Finally, I lose the power of speech. "We're into the third minute of injury time at Burton. Oh God, I can't bear this. I just wanna see. I just want. I just [deep exhale, silence]." I need switching off and on again.

Going up or staying up, the emotions are the same. When it's down to the last seconds, that's why we all do it

At that moment a goalmouth scramble at the Burton end. The MK Dons keeper is up. It's cleared off the line twice. Heartbreak for them. Turns out they had 31 attempts at goal. The Burton keeper was man of the match.

Then it emerges my screen is on a minute delay. The reports of the pitch invasion come through. I won't accept it until it's there in front of my eyes. "I'm looking at live pictures, the players are just standing there looking at phones." And suddenly. "YES we've done. Come on. Get In. I don't want to swear." I yell, turning into a pound-shop Meg Ryan. "Yes. Yes. Yes. Come on. Come on. So good. Aaaaaaah." It's over. I am overwhelmed. Exhausted.

Going up or staying up, the emotions are identical. When it goes down to the last seconds, perhaps that is why we all do it. Your love, bestowed upon you at birth, you have no power over it. It is a quasi-religious experience, or certainly the closest I get. The accidents of birth that have led you to support who you support and that have led those players to be on that pitch at that time. Strip it back and it's ridiculous.

And yet here we are. Two weeks later and 10 of the squad have already left. In August, there'll be another set of humans who will dictate my mood from 10,000 miles away. My 14-month-old already has a Cambridge United kit. Wear sunscreen and support the U's. Only one of those things is guaranteed to be good for you.

Cricket *LV= Insurance County Championship roundup*

Robinson lays down Ashes marker as Sussex hit stride

Tanya Aldred

Ollie Robinson squeezed the Ashes klaxon, trapping the world No 1 batsman, Marnus Labuschagne, for just one at Hove. He was one of four wickets for Robinson as **Glamorgan** disintegrated for 123 against **Sussex**. But there were more treats in store for those who had made the trip to the south coast.

Shortly before 6.30pm, Labuschagne pulled at the cuffs of his shirt sleeves and sent down two overs of leg-spin at his Australia teammate Steve Smith. Smith was not tempted and moved with twitch and scratch to an unbeaten 68. Smith also watched with interest as Michael Neser, vying for a late baggy green call-up, dismissed Cheteshwar Pujara.

Six Test bowlers were dotted across the scorecards at Lord's, where **Middlesex** spent the day chasing the ball. Two early wickets had left **Somerset** vulnerable, but George Bartlett bounced to his first century of the year and Tom Abell had 77 as they put on a brisk third-wicket partnership of 183. Tom Kohler-Cadmore, advertising his best Bazball credentials, got off the mark with a six into the pavilion and added 68 in 60 balls.

Hampshire's James Vince tucked his napkin in and got stuck into the **Northamptonshire** bowling, as he had at Wantage Road last month. This time he got within a contented belch of his hundred, before being caught after propping forward to Rob Keogh, for 95. Around him, Liam Dawson made an unbeaten 56 and there were 40s from Fletcha Middleton and Ben Brown.



▲ *Sussex's Ollie Robinson celebrates after bowling Kiran Carlson for eight*

On a flat Bristol pitch, Graham Clark made his first hundred for six years as **Durham**'s batting express steamed onwards, knocking up 393 for nine in a day against **Gloucestershire**. There were four wickets for Zafar Gohar.

A total of 22 wickets fell at New Road on a day of swinging balls, unpredictable bounce and nervous batting. First **Leicestershire** were bowled out for 173; held together only by 52 from Colin Ackermann and a late-order 30 by Chris Wright. Wright, warmed up, then filleted **Worcestershire**, taking five wickets as they were dismissed for 83.

Kent made **Surrey** sweat over their last wicket at the Oval, as Joey Evison and Michael Hogan added 82 in 14 overs and even collected a batting point: unexpected riches from an unpromising 118 for seven. At Trent Bridge Alastair Cook knocked up 72 in **Essex**'s 298, with three wickets for **Nottinghamshire**'s Stuart Broad.

Nadal says 2024 will 'probably' be his final year

Continued *from back page*

foot injury, winning the Australian Open in his second tournament back and then a record-setting 22nd grand slam title at the French Open in June. He now shares the men's grand slam singles record with Novak Djokovic.

After undergoing a procedure that finally addressed his foot injury after last year's French Open, Nadal reached the Wimbledon semi-finals before suffering an abdominal injury that forced him to withdraw before his scheduled match against Nick Kyrgios. On his return in the summer, Nadal struggled to recover his fitness and form, losing seven of nine matches. His extended absence led to him falling out of the top 10 for the first time in 18 years (912 weeks), an ATP record.

"Since after the pandemic, I was not able to hold the daily work in a good way so I was not able to enjoy the practices and the competition because there was too many problems, too many times having to stop for physical issues. Too many days here practising with pain," he said.

Nadal will turn 37 next month. By taking a break, he hopes he will be in the best position to enjoy what he believes will be his final year. "My goal is to try to stop to give myself an opportunity to enjoy next year that's probably gonna be my last year in the professional tour. That's my idea, even if I can't say 100% that's gonna be like this because you never know what's gonna happen.

"My idea is try to say goodbye to all the tournaments that have been important for me and just enjoy being competitive and enjoy being on court, which today is not possible."

No tournament will feel the absence of Nadal more than Roland Garros, which has already erected a statue of him on its grounds. Nadal has loomed over the men's tournament since he won his first grand slam tournament on his French Open debut in 2005, establishing a level of dominance that no player has managed anywhere else. He has won the event in 14 of his 18 appearances and compiled a 112-3 (97%) record in Paris.

Kyrgios will also miss the French Open, because of a foot injury sustained during the theft of his car by armed robbers this month.

Results and cricket scoreboard

Football

UEFA EUROPA LEAGUE
Semi-finals: Second leg

Bayer Leverkusen (0) **0** **Roma** (0) **0**
(agg 0-1)

Sevilla (0) **2** **Juventus** (0) **1**
Suso 71, Lamela 95 Vlahovic 65 (aet; agg 3-2)

UEFA EUROPA CONFERENCE LEAGUE
Semi-finals: Second leg

AZ Alkmaar (0) **0** **West Ham** (0) **1**
(agg 1-3) Fornals 90

Basel (0) **1** **Fiorentina** (1) **3**
Amdouni 55 González 35 72
(aet; agg 3-4) Barak 120

PREMIER LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Manchester City	35	27	4	4	92	31	+61	**85**
Arsenal	36	25	6	5	83	42	+41	**81**
Newcastle	36	19	12	5	67	32	+35	**69**
Manchester Utd	35	20	6	9	51	41	+10	**66**
Liverpool	36	19	8	9	70	42	+28	**65**
Brighton	35	17	7	11	67	49	+18	**58**
Tottenham	36	17	6	13	65	59	+6	**57**
Aston Villa	36	17	6	13	48	44	+4	**57**
Brentford	36	13	14	9	54	45	+9	**53**
Fulham	36	15	6	15	52	49	+3	**51**
Chelsea	35	11	10	14	36	41	-5	**43**
Crystal Palace	36	11	10	15	37	46	-9	**43**
Wolves	36	11	7	18	30	52	-22	**40**
Bournemouth	36	11	6	19	37	69	-32	**39**
West Ham	36	10	7	19	38	52	-14	**37**
Nottingham Forest	36	8	10	18	36	67	-31	**34**
Everton	36	7	11	18	32	56	-24	**32**
Leeds	36	7	10	19	46	71	-25	**31**
Leicester	36	8	6	22	49	67	-18	**30**
Southampton **R**	36	6	6	24	31	66	-35	**24**

Newcastle (2) **4** **Brighton** (0) **1**
Undav 22og, Burn 45 Undav 51
Wilson 89, Guimarães 90 52,122

SKY BET LEAGUE ONE PLAYOFFS
Semi-finals: Second leg

Sheffield Wed (2) **5** **Peterborough** (0) **1**
Smith 9pen, Gregory 25 Gregory 105og
James 71, Palmer 90
Paterson 112 31,835
(aet; agg 5-5; Sheff Wed win 5-3 on penalties)

Cricket

LV= INSURANCE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP
Division One (first day of four)

Hampshire v Northamptonshire

Rose Bowl Hampshire (2pts) lead Northamptonshire (2) by 331 runs with four first-innings wickets remaining.

Hampshire First innings
JJ Weatherley b Buckingham 20
FS Middleton b Sales 40
NRT Gubbins lbw b White 13
***JM Vince** c Vasconcelos b Keogh 95
†BC Brown b Sales 44
LA Dawson not out 56
IG Holland lbw b White 4
KHD Barker not out 16
Extras (b10, lb14, w5, nb14) 43
Total (for 6, 96 overs) 331
Fall 51, 86, 88, 194, 269, 281.
To bat MS Crane, J Turner, Mohammad Abbas. **Bowling** White 20-6-65-2; Buckingham 21-2-82-1; Taylor 19-6-37-0; Sales 12-3-32-2; Keogh 10-3-28-1; Russell 14-0-63-0.
Northamptonshire Hassan Azad, EN Gay, *SM Whiteman, RI Keogh, †RS Vasconcelos, Saif Zaib, JJG Sales, TAI Taylor, JS Dermott, CJ White, AK Russell.
Toss Hampshire elected to bat.
Umpires JD Middlebrook and PJ Hartley.

Middlesex v Somerset

Lord's Middlesex (2pts) lead Somerset (2) by 325 runs with four first-innings wickets remaining.

Somerset First innings
TA Lammonby c Eskinazi b Murtagh 8
†SM Davies c Eskinazi b Roland-Jones 0
***TB Abell** c Eskinazi b Higgins 77
GA Bartlett c Roland-Jones b Higgins 121
T Kohler-Cadmore b Murtagh 68
JEK Rew c Simpson b Bamber 25
L Gregory not out 17
C Overton not out 0
Extras (b1, lb4, nb4) 9
Total (for 6, 96 overs) 325
Fall 6, 10, 193, 231, 293, 322.
To bat MJ Henry, MJ Leach, PM Siddle.
Bowling Murtagh 22-5-74-2; Roland-Jones 21-7-56-1; Higgins 19-2-64-2; Bamber 21-4-74-1; Hollman 11-2-42-0; Robson 2-0-10-0.
Middlesex MD Stoneman, SD Robson, SS Eskinazi, MDE Holden, RG White, †JA Simpson, RF Higgins, LBK Hollman, *TS Roland-Jones, ER Bamber, TJ Murtagh.
Toss Middlesex elected to field.
Umpires ID Blackwell and PR Pollard.

Nottinghamshire v Essex

Trent Bridge Nottinghamshire (3pts) trail Essex (1) by 285 runs with 10 first-innings wickets standing.

Essex First innings
NLJ Browne lbw b Broad 11
AN Cook c Harrison b Paterson 72
***T Westley** b Paterson 66
DW Lawrence c Clarke b Hutton 16
MJJ Critchley c Clarke b Hutton 12
†AM Rossington lbw b Hutton 35
SR Harmer lbw b Broad 46
DAJ Bracewell b Hutton 7
S Snater c Montgomery b Broad 1
SJ Cook not out 5
JA Porter c Montgomery b Paterson 3
Extras (b14, lb4, nb6) 24
Total (90.2 overs) 298
Fall 16, 151, 170, 188, 195, 270, 288, 289, 291.
Bowling Broad 20-4-53-3; Hutton 24-5-69-4; Paterson 17.2-4-48-3; James 12-1-51-0; Mullaney 6-0-20-0; Patterson-White 8-1-31-0; Harrison 3-0-8-0.
Nottinghamshire First innings
BT Slater not out 4
H Hameed not out 9
Extras 0
Total (for 0, 3 overs) 13
To bat M Montgomery, †JM Clarke, LW James, *SJ Mullaney, LA Patterson-White, CG Harrison, BA Hutton, SCJ Broad, D Paterson.
Bowling SJ Cook 2-0-8-0; Porter 1-0-5-0.
Toss Nottinghamshire elected to field.
Umpires SJ O'Shaughnessy and T Lungley.

Surrey v Kent

The Oval Surrey (3pts) trail Kent (1) by 190 runs with nine first-innings wickets remaining.

Kent First innings
BG Compton b Worrall 4
Z Crawley c Jacks b Clark 19
T Muyeye c Foakes b Atkinson 22
JA Leaning c Jacks b Clark 28
***SW Billings** c Foakes b Lawes 0
†JM Cox b Clark 18
JDM Evison not out 77
G Stewart lbw b Worrall 9
WA Agar b Lawes 31
A Bhuiyan c Sibley b Worrall 2
MG Hogan c Foakes b Lawes 43
Extras (b12, lb7, nb6) 25
Total (72.3 overs) 278
Fall 12, 30, 71, 80, 98, 105, 118, 192, 196.
Bowling Worrall 20-4-68-3; Clark 18-2-61-3; Abbott 10-1-53-0; Lawes 9.3-2-41-3; Atkinson 14-1-28-1; Jacks 1-0-8-0.
Surrey First innings
***RJ Burns** lbw b Hogan 14
DP Sibley not out 35
OJD Pope not out 20
Extras (b8, lb5, nb6) 19
Total (for 1, 21 overs) 88
Fall 25.
To bat JL Smith, †BT Foakes, WG Jacks, J Clark, SA Abbott, T Lawes, GAP Atkinson, DJ Worrall.
Bowling Agar 7-0-30-0; Hogan 5-0-13-1; Bhuiya 5-1-20-0; Stewart 4-1-12-0.
Toss Surrey elected to field. **Umpires** NJ Llong and RJ Bailey.

Division Two (first day of four)

Gloucestershire v Durham

Bristol Durham (3pts) lead Gloucestershire (3) by 393 runs with one first-innings wicket remaining.

Durham First innings
AZ Lees c Zafar Gohar b Shaw 41
MA Jones b Dale 13
***SG Borthwick** c Hammond b Dale 53
DG Bedingham c Zaman Akhter b MD Taylor 40
†OG Robinson c Bracey b Gohar 38
G Clark lbw b Zafar Gohar 100
B de Leede st Bracey b Zafar Gohar 65
BA Raine lbw b Zafar Gohar 2
P Coughlin not out 24
MJ Potts c Hammond b Zaman Akhter 0
AY Patel not out 5
Extras (lb7, w1, nb4) 12
Total (for 9, 96 overs) 393
Fall 15, 86, 149, 149, 214, 338, 350, 369, 374.
Bowling Dale 19-1-73-2; MD Taylor 19-3-71-1; Shaw 12-3-35-1; Zaman Akhter 15-0-82-1; Zafar Gohar 28-4-104-4; Charlesworth 2-0-15-0; JMR Taylor 1-0-6-0.
Gloucestershire CDJ Dent, MS Harris, BG Charlesworth, MAH Hammond, JMR Taylor, *†JR Bracey, Zafar Gohar, MD Taylor, Zaman Akhter, AS Dale, J Shaw.
Toss Durham elected to bat.
Umpires M Newell and S Shanmugam.

Sussex v Glamorgan

Hove Sussex (3pts) lead Glamorgan (1) by 98 runs with six first-innings wickets remaining.

Glamorgan First innings
Zain-ul-Hassan c Carter b Haines 22
EJ Byrom c Carter b Karvelas 5
M Labuschagne lbw b Robinson 1
SA Northeast c Coles b Hudson-Prentice 5
***KS Carlson** b Robinson 8
WT Root b Haines 18
†CB Cooke c Smith b Karvelas 20
MG Neser lbw b Robinson 2
T van der Gugten c Coles b Robinson 5
JAR Harris not out 28
JP McIlroy c Smith b Karvelas 3
Extras (nb6) 6
Total (37.4 overs) 123
Fall 24, 25, 31, 41, 63, 65, 69, 79, 113.
Bowling Robinson 12-4-29-4; Karvelas 10.4-2-30-3; Hudson-Prentice 7-0-37-1; Haines 8-2-27-2.
Sussex First innings
AGH Orr b McIlroy 40
TJ Haines c Neser b McIlroy 58
TP Alsop lbw b Neser 3
***CA Pujara** lbw b Neser 0
SPD Smith not out 68
JM Coles not out 50
Extras (nb2) 2
Total (for 4, 56 overs) 221
Fall 76, 81, 83, 131.
To bat †OJ Carter, FJ Hudson-Prentice, OE Robinson, A Karvelas, JJ Carson.
Bowling Neser 12-2-51-2; Van der Gugten 12-1-59-0; McIlroy 14-3-47-2; Harris 8-1-28-0; Zain-ul-Hassan 8-1-26-0; Labuschagne 2-0-10-0.
Toss Sussex elected to field. **Umpires** RA White and MJ Saggers.

Worcestershire v Leicestershire

New Road Leicestershire (3pts) lead Worcestershire (3) by 156 runs with eight second-innings wickets remaining.

Leicestershire First innings
RK Patel c Roderick b Finch 22
S Budinger c Pollock b Leach 30
***LJ Hill** lbw b Waite 14
CN Ackermann b Gibbon 52
†PSP Handscomb lbw b Waite 0
PWA Mulder c D'Oliveira b Leach 0
R Ahmed c Pollock b Waite 7
TAR Scriven c Waite b Finch 12
CJC Wright lbw b Leach 30
JH Davey not out 0
WS Davis lbw b Gibbon 0
Extras (b1, lb1, nb4) 6
Total (55.5 overs) 173
Fall 37, 56, 80, 80, 83, 94, 117, 171, 173.
Bowling Leach 14-3-45-3; Gibbon 6.5-0-34-2; Brooks 13-4-34-0; Finch 13-2-41-2; Waite 9-5-17-3.
Worcestershire First innings
Azhar Ali c Handscomb b Wright 0
EJ Pollock c Ackermann b Wright 30
†GH Roderick lbw b Davey 0
JA Haynes c Mulder b Wright 6
AJ Hose c Mulder b Wright 0
***BL D'Oliveira** c Handscomb b Davey 6
MJ Waite c Scriven b Davey 0
J Leach c Scriven b Mulder 4
AW Finch lbw b Wright 1
JA Brooks c Wright b Mulder 18
BJ Gibbon not out 5
Extras (b4, lb1, nb8) 13
Total (21.1 overs) 83
Fall 0, 1, 34, 34, 45, 45, 45, 48, 50.
Bowling Wright 10-3-32-5; Davey 7-1-26-3; Mulder 3.1-0-11-2; Scriven 1-0-9-0.
Leicestershire Second innings
RK Patel c Roderick b Leach 29
S Budinger c Gibbon b Brooks 29
WS Davis not out 0
JH Davey not out 2
Extras (b4, nb2) 6
Total (for 2, 11 overs) 66
Fall 64, 64.
To bat *LJ Hill, CN Ackermann, †PSP Handscomb, PWA Mulder, R Ahmed, TAR Scriven, CJC Wright.
Bowling Leach 6-1-18-1; Gibbon 2-0-17-0; Brooks 3-0-27-1.
Toss Worcestershire elected to field.
Umpires N Pratt and J Shantry.

CHARLOTTE EDWARDS CUP
Group Stage: Chelmsford Central Sparks 136 (AE Jones 51). Sunrisers 114 (CL Griffith 53; EL Arlott 4-23). Sparks beat Sunrisers by 23 runs.

Golf

PGA CHAMPIONSHIP (Pittsford, New York)
Early leading first-round scores (US unless stated)
66 B DeChambeau, **67** C Conners (Can); S Scheffler (US). **68** V Hovland (Nor); R Fox (NZ); K Bradley. **69** J Suh. **70** K Kitayama; A Svensson (Can); H Varner III; M NeSmith. **71** B Hossler; R McIlroy (NI); C Tarren (Eng); C Morikawa; S Stevens; S Theegala; M Hubbard. **72** K Higa (Jpn); B Koepka; L Donald (Eng); P Harrington (Ire); D Riley; J Thomas; J Poston; B Steele. **73** Lee K-h (Kor); M Lee (Aus); S Lowry (Ire); J Walker; G Woodland; J Spieth

Tennis

ATP ITALIAN OPEN (Rome)
Quarter-finals: D Medvedev (Rus) bt Y Hanfmann (Ger) 6-2 6-2; **S Tsitsipas** (Gre) bt B Coric (Cro) 6-3 6-4

Cycling

GIRO D'ITALIA
Stage 12 (Bra-Rivoli; 185km) **1** N Denz (Ger) Bora-Hansgrohe 4hr 18min 11sec; **2** T Skujins (Lat) Trek-Segafredo at same time; **3** S Berwick (Aus) Israel-Premier Tech +0:03sec; **4** A Tonelli (It) Green Project-Bardiani CSF-Farizane +0:58; **5** M Frigo (It) Israel Premier Tech +2:07; **6** I Van Wilder (Bel) Soudal Quick-Step +2:20; **7** A Bettiol (It) Education-EasyPost; **8** C Scaroni (It) Astana Qazaqstan; **9** M Hessman (GB) Jumbo-Visma; **10** A Baudin (Fr) AG2R Citroën all s/t
Overall standings: 1 G Thomas (GB) Ineos Grenadiers 49hr 2min 5sec; **2** P Roglic (Svk) Jumbo-Visma +0:02; **3** J Almeida (Por) UAE Emirates +0:22; **4** A Leknessund (Nor) DSM +0:35; **5** D Caruso (It) Bahrain-Victorious +1:28; **6** L Kamna (Ger) +1:52, **7** E Dunbar (Ire) Jayco-AlUla +2:32; **8** T Arensman (Neth) Ineos Grenadiers s/t; **9** L De Plus (Bel) Ineos Grenadiers +2:36, **10** A Paret-Peintre (Fr) AG2R Citroën +2:48

VUELTA A BURGOS FÉMINAS (Spain)
Stage one (Quintanaortuño-Medina de Pomar; 115km) **1** L Wiebes (Neth) 3hr 9min 57sec; **2** E Balsamo (It) Trek-Segafredo; **3** C Dygert (US) Canyon/Sram
Overall standings: 1 L Wiebes (Neth) SD Worx 3hr 9min 47sec; **2** E Balsamo (It) Trek-Segafredo +0:04sec; **3** C Dygert (US) Canyon/Sram +0:06

Greg Wood's racing tips

Newbury 1.30 Mabre **2.05** Tuxedo Junction **2.40** Rust E Boy**3.15** Resolute Man **3.50** Equatorial **4.20** Tony Montana **4.55** Roar Emotion **5.26** Bunker Bay
Newmarket 1.40 Society Lion **2.15** Hidden Story **2.50** Qaasid **3.25** Adjuvant **4.00** Laoisman **4.35** Tarbaan **5.05** Oriental Dancer
York 1.50 Persian Dreamer **2.25** Stormy Sea **3.00** Aramaic (nb) **3.35** Siskany (nap) **4.10** Mostabshir **4.45** It Just Takes Time **5.15** Thankuappreciate
Aintree 5.20 Father Of Jazz **5.55** The Big Bite **6.30** Basford **7.05** Boombawn **7.40** Lounge Lizard **8.15** Malaita **8.50** Cadell
Hamilton 5.40 Midnight Lir **6.15** Mews House **6.50** Arkenstar **7.25** Burj Malinka **7.55** Faylaq **8.26** Basholo **9.00** Willing To Please

Fixtures

Football
Sky Bet League One playoffs
Semi-finals: Second leg Barnsley (1) v Bolton (1) (8pm)
cinch Scottish Premiership playoffs
Semi-finals: First leg Partick Thistle v Ayr (7.45pm)
cinch Scottish League One playoffs
Final: Second leg Clyde (1) v Annan (3) (7.35pm)

Rugby union
European Challenge Cup
Final Glasgow v Toulon (8pm)

Rugby league
Betfred Challenge Cup
Sixth round Halifax v St Helens (7.45pm); Hull KR v Batley (8pm); Wakefield v Leigh (7.45pm)

Cricket
Charlotte Edwards Cup
Group stage Diamonds v Storm, Headingley (6.30pm)

▼ Bryson DeChambeau on the 13th tee during his opening round of 66
KEVIN C COX/GETTY IMAGES



Golf *US PGA Championship*

Forgotten man DeChambeau enjoys view from out front

Former world No 4 shows signs of his old form while McIlroy keeps in the hunt

Ewan Murray
Oak Hill

It has been easy to forget the permanent theatre that surrounds Bryson DeChambeau. Not so long ago, golfers both professional and amateur were trying to emulate the approach of this supposed pioneer. Bomb and gouge won the day as DeChambeau prevailed at the 2020 US Open. His ascent took him to No 4 in the world rankings.

Bryson Land has never been dull. This is the man who publicly insisted Augusta National played as a par 67 for a man of his strength. He once signed a Masters flag for a golf fan seeking out past champions of the year's opening major on the basis he would inevitably join that company.

DeChambeau lacerated his equipment manufacturer, became embroiled in a long-running feud with Brooks Koepka and attracted derision for comments about the Covid vaccine. Yet a switch to the rebel LIV tour, some chronic loss of form and a serious hand injury meant DeChambeau had in effect vanished from view until day one at this, the 105th US PGA Championship.

A slimmed-down DeChambeau – his calorie intake is now 2,900 a day from an earlier high of 5,000 – planted himself atop the leaderboard with a first round of 66. As if to prove drama remains a backdrop, he cracked a fellow player with a ball courtesy of a loose second shot to the 17th. Kenny Pigman, who took a blow to the back, was not meaningfully hurt.

For the first time in a while, DeChambeau's performance overshadowed all other matters. "It's a fantastic round of golf at Oak Hill," said the 29-year-old. "It's a prestigious place. Very difficult golf course. As I was looking at it throughout the week, I'm like, man, I don't know how shooting under par is even possible out here. But, luckily, I was able to play some really good golf, hit a lot of fairways, did my job and made some putts."

Naturally – this is DeChambeau – there followed an element of bizarre conversation. "I took a Zoomer peptide test, which essentially tells you what inflames your blood when you eat," he said. "I was allergic to corn, wheat, gluten, dairy. Pretty much everything I liked, I couldn't eat. I took that out. Started taking it out in August and over the course of time I've lost all this inflammation, lost a lot of fat and slimmed down like crazy.

"I lost 18 pounds in 24 days. It was crazy. It wasn't fat. It was all water weight. You know how I looked before, I was not skinny. So a lot of changes in that regard. Obviously, having the hand injury was no fun and then learning to play golf again with a new hand. It's been a while."

> *'It's been a while … I feel really confident but golf is a weird animal'*
>
> **Bryson DeChambeau**

Whether DeChambeau can maintain this level over another 54 holes is, of course, open to question. In his favour is that Oak Hill's setup is not dissimilar to Winged Foot when the Texan won that US Open. "I feel really confident but golf is a weird animal," said DeChambeau. Takes one to know one etc.

As DeChambeau completed media duties, Rory McIlroy was battering drives down the range as he sought to iron out swing problems which were once again apparent during a one-over-par 71. McIlroy recovered admirably from the position of plus three after nine but was unconvinced by his golf. "I was not at my best," said McIlroy. "It was pretty messy out there."

The 2012 and 2014 US PGA champion is also short of his physical best. "I'm fighting something," said McIlroy. "I thought I got a great night's sleep last night. I took a look at my Whoop [a fitness tracker] and I was at 22% recovery. My skin temperature was three and a half degrees higher than what it has been. I'm fighting something.

"I actually feel better today than I felt yesterday, so plenty of water and a bit of rest, I'll be fine."

Scottie Scheffler eased his way towards a 67. Corey Conners is also three under par. Ryan Fox, who has only just recovered from a nasty bout of pneumonia, has Viktor Hovland and Keegan Bradley for company at minus two. Jon Rahm, the recently crowned Masters champion, slumped to a 76. Matt Fitzpatrick matched that score after failing to record a single birdie. Justin Thomas, the 2022 winner, and Koepka were among those to sign for a 72.

A large chunk of yesterday afternoon's wave will have to complete their opening rounds this morning after frost caused a delay of almost two hours to the start of play.

Rugby union

True Warrior Smith has silenced doubters

Glasgow's coach is in buoyant mood as he prepares his squad for a tough Challenge Cup final against Toulon

Daniel Gallan

Franco Smith knows his appointment as Glasgow Warriors head coach in August last year was not greeted with cheers on the banks of the River Clyde. "Most fans probably didn't know who I was," he says with a shrug.

"They wanted a big name. Everyone seemed to want Scott Robertson [who will take over as All Blacks coach in 2024]. They wanted someone who had won competitions. But why would someone who won anything want to come coach here? What other people say has never bothered me. I know the fans are all on board now."

Of course they are. Tonight, Smith's Warriors will fight to become the first Scottish club to lift a major European title when they take on Toulon in the Challenge Cup final. They have already secured Champions Cup rugby next season after finishing fourth in the United Rugby Championship while topping their conference. It has been a remarkable debut season for a coach who has actively sought the path of most resistance.

"I've always wanted to take difficult jobs where budgets are smaller or the culture needed work," he explains, citing a CV that includes stints with the Cheetahs in his native South Africa, with Benetton Treviso in Italy, as well as the Italian national side where he helped develop a generation of future stars.

"I want to be significant, not just successful. The fact that critics wrote me off from the start shows how success is down to perception. But perception is fickle. I do hope the naysayers now won't judge a book by its cover anymore."

Smith's presence at Scotstoun is further evidence of the South Africanisation of Scottish rugby. His thick Afrikaans accent is not out of place in a dressing room that includes five South African-born players, with another on the way next season in the form of the 1.94m, 107kg (6ft 4in, 16st 12lb) back-rower Henco Venter. Up the M8 in Edinburgh, six more compatriots ply their trade, including the hot-stepping power runner Duhan van der Merwe.

This has been a symbiotic relationship. Scotland's pack is bolstered by South African muscle, with Pierre Schoeman and WP Nel playing crucial roles in the front row. These players, who might not have played Test rugby had they stayed at home, are part of a team on the rise with a realistic shot of upsetting the Springboks in their World Cup group game.

"It's a credit to everyone that it's worked so well for both parties," Smith says. "The players have come here and they've recognised they didn't have a future in South Africa so they've given everything they have for Scotland. And credit to Scotland and the people who are so welcoming of foreigners. It's a great connection that's developed between the two countries."

That influx in personnel has naturally shifted strategies on the pitch. Last year Scotland's coach, Gregor Townsend, substituted his entire front row at the same time, replicating South Africa's "Bomb Squad" strategy. For his part, Smith has selected a six-two split between forwards and backs on the bench in all but one of 27 games this season.

Though this may feel like a departure from Scottish rugby's traditional strengths, Smith is quick to emphasise the legacies of Iain Milne and Doddie Weir, "who were some of the hardest men in rugby history." Some perceptions evidently need recalibration from time to time.

Victory in Dublin would shift the discourse in a sport that is increasingly favouring teams with deeper pockets. French clubs have €10.7m (£9.3m) to play with – more than double the amount available to Smith – and Toulon have used that to sign the Wales fly-half Dan Biggar and the South African flyer Cheslin Kolbe. They are the fourth most successful club in Europe with a hat-trick of Champions Cups between 2013 and 2015 and have competed in four Challenge finals (though they have lost them all).

With this sort of pedigree and that bursting war chest it is obvious why they kick off as favourites. Smith does not mind. "Maybe they think they deserve to win this one," he says with a dismissive tone. "They rested their star players against Racing last week [as they were beaten 43-7 in Paris]. This is the one thing they've got on their mind. We'll be ready for them."

Smith has already won over a sceptical city. One more victory would catapult him into Scottish rugby folklore and ensure his name will never be forgotten.



Franco Smith has made a difficult job look simple

Rugby union

Wasps will play in bottom tier after licence is revoked

Robert Kitson

The sad descent of Wasps, champions of Europe just 16 years ago, is now complete after the Rugby Football Union withdrew the club's licence to play in next season's Championship and, by doing so, consigned the erstwhile English champions to the basement of the entire league pyramid.

The RFU has run out of patience with Wasps' attempts to find fresh financial backing after the club went into administration in October with debts of £95m. Twickenham officials were concerned about the club's ability to pay off its creditors and to establish suitable governance structures, also citing a lack of clear progress in engaging coaching staff and players for the new season.

In December the RFU announced that Wasps would be permitted to take their place in the Championship after approving a proposed rescue plan from a company headed by Christopher Holland, who still owns the club's training ground in Henley-in-Arden. "This is not the outcome anyone in rugby wanted and all those involved with the club will be deeply disappointed," said Bill Sweeney, the RFU's chief executive.

There could also be repercussions for the new owners of Worcester, who had been hoping Wasps could relocate to their Sixways stadium in Worcester this season and, in the process, earn them £600,000 in annual rent. Holland had loaned Worcester's owners, Atlas WWRFC, the sum of £1.15m as part of an agreement to secure a three-year lease to play at Sixways. With Wasps no longer in a position to play professional rugby, this loan will now have to be repaid.

The remaining 12 Championship clubs, keen to finalise next season's fixture list, and the Worcester Warriors Supporters Trust had been putting pressure on the RFU to clarify the situation. The other issue has been the possibility of a ringfenced 10-team Premiership plus a lack of certainty around the Championship's future. "We tried all avenues to achieve our objectives but unfortunately all potential investors could not get past the regulations forced upon us by the RFU and the lack of clarity of the Championship and Premiership structure," said a Wasps spokesperson.

Further trouble is brewing for Premiership Rugby, in danger of losing a third club, London Irish, inside nine months. The RFU has set a deadline of 30 May for the club to complete a mooted US-led takeover and show it has the financial means to continue through the 2023-24 season. If not, the club will be suspended from the Premiership. Player wages were paid late in April and the London Irish owner, Mick Crossan, has been trying to sell the club for some time.



Newcastle turn on the style late on

Alexis Mac Allister, Jan Paul van Hecke and Jason Steele react after Bruno Guimarães's goal
STU FORSTER/GETTY IMAGES

Premier League

Wilson and Guimarães end fightback to reach verge of promised land

Newcastle 4
Undav 22og, Burn 45, Wilson 89, Guimarães 90

Brighton 1
Undav 51

Louise Taylor
St James' Park

For Newcastle the equation is simple; win one of their remaining two games and Tyneside's 20-year exile from the Champions League will be over.

The celebrations could well begin on Monday night when Leicester travel here but, should Aston Villa triumph at Liverpool, might be triggered as early as tomorrow. On this evidence though, a few of Eddie Howe's players could be almost too tired to party.

The indefatigable Lewis Dunk and Jason Steele excepted, much the same could be said of Roberto De Zerbi's evidently fatigued team as they aim to take Brighton into Europe for the first time. While Newcastle pushed themselves defiantly, and often magnificently, through the pain barrier, De Zerbi's side were way below their mesmeric best and never looked like sustaining a brief second-half revival. The usually influential Moisés Caicedo and Pascal Gross were particularly poor.

"That's how we want to play, fast and with high intensity," said Howe. "It was a brilliant performance, especially out of possession. But maintaining that sort of rhythm throughout is not easy and involves taking risks. When Brighton scored they made it a bit nervy."

Newcastle's manager refuses to discuss securing a top-four finish just yet. "I actually can't pronounce the CL words at the moment, they go funny against my lips," joked Howe, whose side visit Chelsea on Sunday week. "Nothing's been achieved. We're close but it's still so far away. We've tried not to talk about it in meetings. We can't take anything for granted."

Evidently heeding Howe's instruction to remind everyone they remain "a force", Newcastle began with a zeal that soon had De Zerbi's side penned into their own half, gasping for breath. Brighton looked a barely detectable shadow of the team which had won 3-0 at Arsenal last Sunday.

As Joe Willock, Joelinton, Alexander Isak, Miguel Almirón and company forced their guests into a series of errors, it seemed a repeat of the visitors' 5-1 home surrender to Everton earlier this month was a real possibility. Only Dunk, fighting a rearguard effort at centre-half, and Steele, demonstrating why he has displaced Robert Sánchez in goal, mounted a significant resistance effort.

Shortly after Dunk had performed heroics to block Joelinton's shot, Brighton finally fell behind. The goal came from a corner, expertly whipped in by Kieran Trippier and headed into his own net by the helpless Deniz Undav.

If Steele looked suitably relieved when VAR officials confirmed that Dunk's challenge on Callum Wilson should not lead to a penalty, Sánchez's replacement was powerless to prevent Newcastle doubling their advantage on the verge of half-time.

Once again it was created by the excellent Trippier, whose latest free-kick was headed beyond Steele by Dan Burn. It dictated that Howe's principal interval concerns centred on the yellow cards collected by his key central midfielder, Bruno Guimarães, for a foul on Kaoru Mitoma, and Fabian Schär, for shoving Billy Gilmour in the face.

Burn re-emerged for the second period seeming somehow larger than his customary 6ft 7in. Not only had he scored his first Premier League goal for Newcastle, it had arrived against his former employers. Who would have thought there was a time on the south coast when the defender could barely get a game for Brighton?

Unfortunately for Howe, Burn was soon brought back down to earth when De Zerbi's side stunned St James' Park by, albeit temporarily, remembering that they can play a bit after all.

No sooner had Burn crossed, Willock flicked on and Almirón forced Steele into a stellar save, than Gilmour's superior through pass precipitated the advancing - and by now much-improved - Undav expertly steering his shot beneath the diving Nick Pope.

With that goal having rightly survived a VAR review for a potential offside, De Zerbi opted to further spice things up courtesy of a triple substitution, involving the introduction of Argentina's Alexis Mac Allister.

Willock has realistic ambitions to win an England cap but they were almost certainly placed on hold when he collapsed with what appeared a serious hamstring injury. Worryingly for Howe, Willock appeared in considerable pain as he was helped off the pitch and replaced by Elliot Anderson. With Sean Longstaff sidelined by an ankle problem and Joelinton collecting a knock here, Newcastle looked somewhat understaffed in that department right now.

At least Wilson remains in good health. In the dying minutes the England striker scored his 18th goal of the season, and 11th since the start of April, meeting Almirón's pass and advancing 40 yards before side-footing home. Then Wilson held the ball up adroitly for Guimarães to apply an ecstatically received 12-yard finish.

"It was difficult, very tough," said De Zerbi. "Newcastle were stronger. We didn't play well and deserved to lose. To qualify for the Europa League we have to fight."

Newcastle
4-3-3
Pope; Trippier (Manquillo 90), Schär●, Botman, Burn; Joelinton (Targett 90), Guimarães●, Willock (Anderson 61); Almirón (Saint-Maximin 90), Wilson, Isak (Gordon 90)
Subs not used
Dubravka, Dummett, Lewis, Miley

Brighton
4-2-3-1
Steele; Caicedo, Van Hecke●, Dunk, Estupiñán; Gross● (Offiah 69), Gilmour (Mac Allister● 56); Buonanotte (Enciso 56), Undav● (Peupion 85) 56), Mitoma; Welbeck (Ferguson 56)
Subs not used
McGill, Atari, Moran, Samuels

Referee Robert Jones **Attendance** 52,122

Sky Bet League One playoffs
Semi-final, second leg

Hunt strikes final blow in jaw-dropping comeback

Sheffield Wednesday 5
Smith 9pen, Gregory 25, James 71, Palmer 90, Paterson 112

Peterborough 1
Gregory 115og

aet; agg 5-5; Sheff Wed win 5-3 on pens

Sheffield Wednesday pulled off one of the greatest comebacks in playoff history as they overturned a 4-0 first-leg deficit against Peterborough to reach the League One playoff final via a penalty shootout, with Liam Palmer and Jack Hunt key to the triumph.

Wednesday, who narrowly missed automatic promotion from the third tier and finished 19 points above Peterborough in the regular season, looked down and out after last Friday's hammering. But, roared on by the home fans at Hillsborough, they turned the tie on its head to win 5-1 on the night after extra time and then held their nerve to prevail 5-3 in the shootout to spark wild scenes of celebration with the fans invading the pitch.

Michael Smith got the comeback under way with a penalty after nine minutes and Lee Gregory halved the arrears before half-time to give Wednesday belief.

Reece James made it 3-0 on the night and in the eighth minute of stoppage time Palmer prodded home from close range to spark pandemonium in the stands.



▲ *Sheffield Wednesday's players are ecstatic as their victory is confirmed*

In another twist, Peterborough edged ahead on aggregate in the first half of extra time when a cross deflected in off the unlucky Gregory. But a weary Wednesday would not give in and Callum Paterson's cool finish in the 112th minute sent the game into a shootout.

Wednesday then scored all of their penalties while Dan Butler thumped his against the bar for Peterborough. Hunt dispatched the crucial kick to send Wednesday to Wembley and a chance to return to the Championship after a two-year absence.

Barnsley and Bolton contest the other semi-final tonight, with the tie level at 1-1 after the first leg. **Reuters**

Uefa Conference League *Semi-final, second leg*

Fornals leaves it late to put nervy West Ham into final

AZ Alkmaar	**0**
West Ham	**1**
Fornals 90	
West Ham win 3-1 on agg	

Jacob Steinberg
AFAS Stadion

All the drama came at the end, Pablo Fornals settling the tie deep into added time and the moronic reaction of some thuggish AZ Alkmaar fans briefly threatening to ruin West Ham's evening. The mood had turned acrid, with hooligans shaming the beaten hosts when they found the pain of defeat too much to bear and responding to the final whistle by charging at the pitchside section housing West Ham's sponsors, club officials and the team's families.

It was carnage for a few minutes, David Moyes's players understandably furious when they realised what was happening. Yet it would not be long before Declan Rice, West Ham's imperious captain, was leading his teammates towards the away end to celebrate Moyes's resilient side reaching their first European final in 47 years. They had done so by keeping their cool and, for all that West Ham's lack of care in possession made the second leg of this Europa Conference League semi-final unnecessarily anxious at times, nobody could dispute that they deserved to go through after winning 3-1 on aggregate.

Ultimately it never seemed likely that AZ would find a way through the wall of black shirts protecting Alphonse Areola's goal. Yes, the statistics at the end had suggested an evening of Dutch dominance. AZ had more shots, more of the ball and more corners. Yet Pascal Jansen's young side would pay for their lack of incision and in the end it was not a surprise when Fornals' clinical goal gave West Ham the chance to dream of beating Fiorentina in the final in Prague on 7 June.

There were, of course, some hairy moments during the second half. With 20 minutes left Rice could be seen urging his leggy teammates to give it one last push. West Ham had to dig deep and, from AZ's perspective, there will be questions over whether the game would have turned out differently if they had been given a penalty for Nayef Aguerd's risky foul on Vangelis Pavlidis just before the hour.

Equally there was never a genuine sense that Rice would finish on the losing side. The midfielder has a plan to leave east London on a high, and there would be no better way to sign off than by helping West Ham win their first trophy since 1980.

There is no chance of anyone of a claret and blue persuasion begrudging Rice his move if he plays this well against Fiorentina. The midfielder was everywhere, repeatedly putting out fires, although he did not do it alone. It was a professional display from West Ham. Moyes, who has never won a trophy, made no apologies for focusing on keeping a clean sheet. The Scot has endured a difficult season; now he stands one win away from cementing his place as a West Ham legend.

It all felt so much more restrained compared with last year's heartbreak against Eintracht Frankfurt in the last four of the Europa League. West Ham blew that tie, Aaron Cresswell's red card in the second leg summing up their lack of composure, but here they were calm. They were in control after fighting back from a goal down to win the first leg and were determined not to give AZ hope of a turnaround.

It was not entirely clear why the hosts were unbeaten in 25 European home games. West Ham simply looked stronger and fitter, while they had fun when Lucas Paquetá had the ball. The Brazilian was a delight to watch at times, his footwork a level above, and he would go closer than anyone to scoring during the opening period. He deserved better than for his bending drive to clip a post after fine hold-up play from Michail Antonio.

By that stage AZ had been reduced to hopeful pot shots from long range. They played in front of West Ham and were struggling to get enough bodies into the box. It was too easy for Aguerd and Kurt Zouma to keep heading the crosses away.

Jansen needed his side to take more risks in the second half. There was more hope when Milos Kerkez broke through, the left-back's cross just evading Pavlidis. Suddenly the Dutch side were pressing. West Ham had to wake up when the midfielder Tijjani Reijnders almost released Pavlidis.

A response came from Rice testing Mat Ryan from 25 yards. Yet West Ham were starting to wobble. Their wingers, Jarrod Bowen and Saïd Benrahma, were not doing enough. AZ's belief was growing and Thilo Kehrer, who was booked for time-wasting, went close to disaster when he almost turned a cross past Areola.

Yet West Ham held firm. Sent on to provide more energy during the dying stages, Fornals did more than that. Deep into added time a loose ball broke to the Spaniard, he drove a low shot past Ryan from 20 yards and West Ham's celebrations could begin.

AZ Alkmaar
4-3-3
Ryan; Sugawara, Beukema, Chatzidiakos, Kerkez (M de Wit 85); Clasie, Mijnans (D de Wit 70), Reijnders; Van Brederode (Lahdo 78), Pavlidis, Karlsson (Meerdink)

West Ham
4-2-3-1
Areola; Kehrer, Zouma, Aguerd, Cresswell; Rice, Soucek; Bowen, Paquetá (Downes 90), Benrahma (Fornals 75); Antonio (Ings 85)

Referee Ivan Kruzliak (Svk)

Mourinho in Europa final

José Mourinho will have a chance to claim a sixth European trophy after Roma reached the Europa League final by holding Bayer Leverkusen to a 0-0 draw. Roma went through 1-0 on aggregate after winning the first leg of the semi-final at home. Roma will face Sevilla in the final on 31 May after the substitute Érik Lamela scored with a fabulous header five minutes into extra time to earn the Spaniards a 2-1 win over Juventus, securing a 3-2 aggregate victory. Dusan Vlahovic gave Juve the lead before Suso equalised. The final takes in Budapest. Reuters



Better late than never for Fornals

West Ham's Pablo Fornals scores against AZ Alkmaar to ensure his side reach the Conference League final
ADAM DAVY/PA



▲ *AZ Alkmaar supporters attack relatives of West Ham players*

'I feel ashamed' AZ manager apologises for fan trouble

Jacob Steinberg
AFAS Stadion

West Ham's joy in reaching the final of the Europa Conference League was marred by supporters of AZ Alkmaar confronting friends and family of the visiting players after the final whistle.

AZ are likely to face punishment from Uefa after the night ended on an unpleasant note. There was chaos when fans of the Dutch side ran to an area housing West Ham officials, sponsors and friends and families of the team.

Saïd Benrahma, Michail Antonio, Aaron Cresswell and Flynn Downes were among the West Ham players who confronted the supporters. David Moyes's elderly father was in the section that was targeted.

"I can't explain what happened and why it happened," Moyes said. "Players were involved because it was the family section. That was probably the reason for the reaction.

"I don't want that in any way to blight the night because the West Ham fans weren't looking for trouble. Hopefully they'll look into it. My family were there and I had friends in that section.

"You're hoping they would try and get themselves away from it. I didn't recognise it because I was too happy. Security wanted to take me inside but I had to make sure my players weren't involved."

One West Ham fan, who was nearby, said the AZ fans who attacked were wearing black shirts and had their hoods up. He said "they did not get very far" and added that the bigger concern was for young Dutch families who had been caught in between.

Pascal Jansen, AZ's manager, apologised for the trouble. "I feel ashamed it happened in our stadium. It should not be happening. You have to stay in control of your emotions."

Moyes was able to enjoy the win. "I'm thrilled for the players and everybody at the club. We've got one more to go to see if we can win. We've done a real good job."

Alphonse Areola, West Ham's goalkeeper, said he had family in the section that was attacked. "They were a bit far from the incident," he said. "We were a bit worried. Security is the most important thing. It was a bit too open for the opposing fans. At the end, they managed to stop them. When families or fans are coming we don't want to see things like that. They want to enjoy the event and we want to enjoy it with them."

Guardiola warns against hubris as outstanding Grealish leads blue wave



Manager blew kisses at No 10 during rout of Real Madrid but wants him and his teammates to stay humble

David Hytner

'I don't like that, no," said Pep Guardiola with a slightly edgy laugh. The Manchester City manager was trying to process, decompress and, yes, enjoy the Champions League semi-final, second-leg dismantling of Real Madrid on Wednesday night when it was put to him that Jack Grealish had just said the team felt unstoppable.

In fairness to Grealish, he had called it after the first leg in Madrid, using the same word to describe the mood in the City dressing room before the Etihad return. To Guardiola, it was probably the only time the winger put so much as a syllable out of place.

Grealish was outstanding, albeit he was hardly alone in that regard as City stormed to a 4-0 win for a 5-1 aggregate success to set up a final against Internazionale in Istanbul on 10 June. There was a moment in the second half when Guardiola blew kisses at Grealish, which was certainly a counterpoint to the blow-up with Kevin De Bruyne. He and the midfielder exchanged angry words and gestures after De Bruyne made a bad decision on the ball. The emotions were raw.

Back to Grealish. Guardiola wanted to say it was great his players felt unstoppable and it is plainly a statement of fact - 23 games without defeat, one win away from another Premier League title, into the finals of the FA Cup and now the Champions League. The ultimate treble, the Manchester United treble, is within their grasp.

But, you know, maybe don't say it out loud. "Because every team is stoppable if you do what you have to do … in football, things change completely from one day to the next," Guardiola said. And, because, if there was one area of sensitivity for him after such a colossal victory and epic run, it is the notion City merely have to turn up in Istanbul to scratch their Champions League itch.

Inter are a good team, defensively secure in their 3-5-2 system. They have kept clean sheets in five of their six knockout ties, the exception being the 3-3 home draw in the quarter-final second leg against Benfica. They had been 3-1 up on the night and 5-1 to the good on aggregate when they conceded two after the 86th minute.

The suspicion remains that Inter have enjoyed a nice draw; they had Porto in the last 16 and, after Benfica, Milan in the semi-final. They lost at home and away to Bayern Munich in the group phase although, decisively for their qualification, they did take four points from Barcelona. They sit third in Serie A.

Guardiola would laugh off the idea that complacency stands to be an enemy for City and when have they been anything less than laser-like in their focus? Also, they will have the heartbreak of the 2021 final defeat against Chelsea in their minds, just as they did last season's semi-final loss to Madrid before this rematch. But it will be an element of the external narrative and it was interesting to see how Guardiola addressed it.

"If there is one incredible detail of this team that I am so proud of, it's they are so humble," he said. "Every game, it doesn't matter the opponent or the competition … they take it seriously.

"I hate the arrogance in sports. I hate the moments when you believe you are something that you are not. The people are going to talk now - they [Inter] are not favourite, we are favourite and so on … that is the worst that can happen.

"You can listen you are the favourite, you believe that you are, you believe you are something special … you are not. We are favourites from the beginning of the season - favourites, favourites … So it's not easy to handle. They've had that feeling [of pressure all along]. It's normal."

Guardiola can take heart from how his backup players have performed when called upon, how they are training, which is a barometer every manager looks for - take Aymeric Laporte, Riyad Mahrez, Phil Foden and Julián Álvarez for example. They came on towards the end against Madrid, Mahrez and Foden combining to set up Álvarez for the final goal.

But what really fortifies Guardiola is the form of his starters and on Wednesday it was impossible to give any of them a rating of less than 8/10. Maybe the goalkeeper, Ederson, because he had so little to do? There was precious little jeopardy - a theme of the past few months, which can leave the neutral feeling a little cold.

It would be wrong to reverse-engineer the result as being down to Madrid's shortcomings. They had looked like a champion team in the first leg and the reason they came to resemble a lower-league minnow on a Cup visit to the Etihad, clinging on in the face of the onslaught - mainly in the first half - was because City simply swamped them. Their intensity and high-speed patterns of play were too much.

Guardiola had picked up on a comment from Toni Kroos, the Madrid midfielder stating his team could have lost 10-1 or 10-2 in last season's first leg at the Etihad only for it to finish 4-3 against them, paving the way for the comeback. Guardiola felt his team had played the same game in that first leg as they did on Wednesday; it was just they did not get what they deserved.

As City passed up chances in the first 20 minutes, it would have been easy for them to fret. Ditto when Madrid began to make a few inroads in the second half at 2-0 down; a goal might have changed the dynamics, awakened the demons. But City did not relent. It was a triumph of mentality, too.

'You can listen you are favourite, you believe that you are something special … you are not'


▲ *Manchester City fans get ready for kick-off against Real Madrid*

Three steps to greatness

Premier League
City will secure the title for a fifth time in six years with victory over Chelsea on Sunday or should Arsenal lose to Nottingham Forest tomorrow evening.

FA Cup
Next up is a trip to Wembley on 3 June and facing a Manchester United side who will be hell-bent on stopping their neighbours emulating their 1999 treble triumph.

Champions League
Finally comes City's date with destiny - Internazionale at Istanbul's Ataturk Olympic Stadium on 10 June. Win and they will be remembered forever.

Grealish makes trouble for Madrid



Manchester City's Jack Grealish twists and turns his way past the Real Madrid defence at the Etihad
TOM JENKINS/ THE GUARDIAN

Guardiola wanted his team to be quicker and more incisive in the attacking transitions than in the first leg, when he said his more patient approach was down in part to the state of the Bernabéu turf. "I heard that the grass was really, really bad, really poor, and I needed to put one more player in our buildup for more control of the game," he said. It worked.

Guardiola would only say that revenge for last season had been a factor after the second leg, having previously denied it. He also refused to engage on the matter of whether a victory over Madrid was even sweeter for a Barcelona man like him. Everybody knows the truth. Just as they know that Guardiola, as with Grealish, surely feels unstoppable.

Analysis



Sid Lowe *Madrid*

Ancelotti in danger of having accelerated his Real departure after breaking unwritten rule

'We have to tell the truth," Toni Kroos said, and the truth hurt. "This defeat was very deserved," the midfielder admitted when at last it was over. The night before the Champions League semi-final second leg, Carlo Ancelotti had gathered his players at the Etihad Stadium and told them there would be moments when they would have to hang on: 20 minutes, 25, maybe 30. It is their way, and Manchester City had made them suffer before, after all. Just not quite like this. Even half an hour turned out to be optimistic.

That mark had just been passed when Kroos crashed a shot against the bar. It was Real Madrid's first, and the first time they had anything resembling possession. In the opening quarter of an hour they had averaged less than a pass a minute and it hadn't got much better. City had taken nine shots, and if they led only 1-0 it was because Thibaut Courtois had made two extraordinary saves. And yet in that moment, as the goal shook, you couldn't help wondering whether Madrid were going to go and do it again. Two minutes later, Bernardo Silva made it 2-0. That'll be a no, then.

It's football, it can happen, Ancelotti said, insisting there was no need to make a drama of defeat and responding sharply to suggestions that Madrid's attitude had been off. But he is aware that defeat brings consequences, and knew he would be pressed about his future.

Ancelotti, constantly reminded of an "unwritten rule" that says if you don't win the Champions League you get sacked, was asked whether he could understand the club having doubts about him continuing. "No one doubts: the president was clear a fortnight ago," he replied. Back then, after Madrid had won the Copa del Rey and after months of speculation, Florentino Pérez said he did not want to hear any more about Ancelotti's future: he had a contract until 2024 and that was that.

And yet referring the question back to the president was deliberate, another hand played in a complex situation in which club and coach have worked themselves into an awkward stalemate that does not truly suit either party. Ancelotti would like to become Brazil manager, and suspects Madrid would like him to as well, conscious that belief in him is not unwavering. The sack, at one point



Toni Kroos said defeat by City was 'very deserved'

anticipated, would not be entirely unwelcome to him; resignation would not be entirely unwelcome to them. But neither side want responsibility, so time and opportunities pass with both sides talking of continuity, if not with a huge amount of conviction.

Madrid's director of institutional relations, Emilio Butragueño, on Wednesday night called Ancelotti a "stupendous" coach, who "has a contract", but stopped short of a guarantee that he does not have the authority to give, and the doubts are certainly there.

Madrid have relinquished the league early, 14 points behind Barcelona, and this defeat was not so out of place with what happened last week or even last season, not such a dramatic collapse. That gets revisited now, a feeling that maybe this was due, bound to happen at some point.

They may not be a systems team but Madrid do many things well, and one of them is to wait. "There will be times when you have to accept that your opponent is better," Kroos said, expressing a kind of humility to go alongside the supreme confidence that their moments would come and they had the quality and character to grab them.

For as long as they found a way, fine. But this time they didn't. This time there was no way back, City's

> *The sack would not be unwelcome to him; resignation would not be unwelcome to them*

pressure suffocating them. This time some looked their age, or at least that became an inevitable theme in the wake of the 4-0, endlessly repeated last night: Luka Modric is 37, Karim Benzema 35, Kroos 33, Dani Carvajal 31. The talk now is of transition, a new generation and some of the talent is there: Eduardo Camavinga is 20, Vinícius Júnior and Rodrygo are 22, Aurélien Tchouaméni is 23, Federico Valverde 24, Éder Militão 25. They are confident of signing Jude Bellingham, who is 19. Kylian Mbappé, of course, did not come, when they thought he would.

That evolution was already under way, which is not to say it is easy. Ancelotti says he has asked for "patience" from his young players and "understanding" from his older ones as opportunities are shared. Of 34 league games this campaign, Kroos has started 22, Modric 17 and Benzema 21, although the Frenchman has had injuries, far from last season's form. Even in last season's Champions League, Camavinga was introduced in each of the second legs, decisive every time, and Valverde's hybrid role brought energy to midfield. By the end of the City game, Casemiro, Kroos and Modric had been withdrawn.

They were back for the final, which Madrid won. Back again this season, too, and deservedly. Now Madrid had reached a semi-final, an 11th in 13 years, in a season in which they scored six against Liverpool, four against Chelsea. Defeat tends to accelerate everything, especially one like this, so devastating, so definitive. Vinícius insisted "this can't happen next year". And the temptation is to tear it all up. But that is their truth too. Just as it is true that the City team who were better than them at the Etihad Stadium are better than everyone else there too, scoring seven against Leipzig, six against Manchester United, four against Liverpool and Arsenal, three against Bayern.

"We have to assimilate this loss first and then we'll see. I don't want to get into more depth now," Modric said. "When Real Madrid lose, everything is made very big: lots of analysis, lots of criticism. We're used to it, it won't sink us. This team still has much to give."

Kroos said: "I can't say that we had a bad campaign: we've played many good games and we were just one game away from the final. As a coach or a player you sign for this club and you know they expect the maximum.

"Fortunately, we have often done the maximum, but nor is it normal to win the Champions League all the time. Lots of teams would swap with us. I don't need defeat to appreciate what we did; I always knew that what we did was madness. The last time I heard it was the end of an era was 2019 - that's a long time ago. So, we're OK."

Football In brief

Crystal Palace

Hodgson set to be asked to remain as manager

Roy Hodgson is expected to be asked to extend his stay at Crystal Palace for another season, with his assistant Paddy McCarthy lined up as the 75-year-old's long-term replacement. Hodgson has guided Palace to five victories from eight games since replacing Patrick Vieira and the club will match their best Premier League points tally of 49 if they win their final two fixtures, against Fulham and Nottingham Forest. Hodgson has yet to confirm he would like to carry on, but it is understood the Palace chairman, Steve Parish, is seriously considering a one-year deal that would extend the former England coach's record as the league's oldest-ever manager. **Ed Aarons**

Arsenal

'Exceptional' Ramsdale signs new contract

Aaron Ramsdale has signed a new long-term contract with Arsenal. The 25-year-old goalkeeper's previous deal was due to expire in 2025 - his new one is set to run until 2026. "We're all so happy that Aaron has signed a new contract," said Arsenal's manager, Mikel Arteta. "The way he has developed has been exceptional. It's great that we're continuing to build our future with our biggest talents in our young squad." Ramsdale joined Arsenal from Sheffield United for £30m in August 2021 and has been key to their title push this season. **PA Media**

Chelsea Women

Eriksson and Harder to leave club in summer

Chelsea have announced Magda Eriksson and Pernille Harder, two of their most experienced and decorated players, will leave when their contracts expire this summer. A few hours after a tearful Eriksson confirmed her departure, Chelsea said Harder would also be going. The players, who are a couple, have been linked with a number of top European sides. "Really difficult to say out loud," said Eriksson in a video posted by Chelsea. "It's been an unbelievable time - best time of my life," **Guardian sport**



Aaron Ramsdale has been a key part of Arsenal's title push

David Hytner
Unstoppable Grealish sums up City's chase for total glory

Page 40 →



Toon put four past Brighton
Newcastle one win from Champions League

Page 38 →

LIV rebel hits the front
DeChambeau back from the wilderness at US PGA

Page 37 →

The Guardian
Friday 19 May 2023

Sport



Fornals takes Hammers to European final

AZ Alkmaar	West Ham
0	1

West Ham win 3-1 on agg

Pablo Fornals (left) celebrates with Declan Rice after sealing a Conference League final spot
Match report *Page 39* →

SIMON DAEL/SHUTTERSTOCK

Clampdown planned after big increase in dissent

Exclusive
Sean Ingle

English football's governing bodies are in talks to bring in measures to clamp down on dissent due to concern over the rise in bad behaviour towards officials. With two weeks of the season remaining, 534 cards have been issued to players for dissent in the top four divisions of English football, according to Opta - easily surpassing last season's tally of 477, as well as the 421 cards shown in 2020-21.

Talks are under way between the Premier League, Football Association, Football League and PGMOL, the body responsible for referees, to address the issue.

Although those discussions are said to be still in the consulting stage, one source involved said there was widespread concern given the rise in the number of reports, warnings, charges and sanctions for misconduct at the elite level of English football shows no signs of slowing.

Officials have also noted the increase in managers being disciplined for poor behaviour in the Premier League. According to Opta, managers have been booked 26 times and received seven red cards in 2022-23 - a steep rise from the 18 cards last season and the four in 2020-21.

Repeat offenders this season have included Brighton's manager, Roberto De Zerbi, who has been sent off against Fulham and Tottenham, and Fulham's Marco Silva, who has served two touchline bans.

The Liverpool manager, Jürgen Klopp, who received a £30,000 fine and a one-match ban after being sent off against Manchester City for shouting at an assistant referee, was yesterday given a two-match ban - with the second game suspended until the end of next season - for comments made about the referee Paul Tierney after his side beat Tottenham last month.

This week the chief refereeing officer of PGMOL, Howard Webb, warned that the behaviour of players and managers had "not been good enough". It is understood that is a position strongly supported by the Premier League and the FA.

"For quite some time now there's been a group of people from all aspects of the game coming together to look at participant behaviour and come up with some steps that we think will make a difference, and those will be implemented during the close season," Webb said.

Au revoir
Nadal out of French Open and plans to retire next year

Tumaini Carayol

Rafael Nadal has announced his withdrawal from this month's French Open because of the hip injury that has kept him out of competition since January. As his body continues to struggle with the physicality of tennis, Nadal also revealed he will probably retire in 2024. He will now take a break for a number of months to be prepared for what he believes will be the final year of his career.


Rafael Nadal does 'not feel ready to compete' at his usual standard

At the Rafa Nadal Academy close to his home in Manacor, Mallorca, the 14-time French Open champion described how he has felt low in recent months while struggling with his injuries. "I was working as much as possible for the last four months," he said.

"It has been very difficult because we have not been able to find the solution to the problem I had in Australia, so I'm still in the position that I'm not able to feel ready to compete at the standards I need to be to play Roland Garros."

The 36-year-old suffered his latest injury to his psoas muscle during his Australian Open third-round loss in January and he had initially believed that he would be out for six to eight weeks. Instead, his recovery did not progress as planned and he was forced to attempt different treatment. Nadal returned to training, but four months later remains unable to train at intensity and without pain.

"My position is to stop. I don't know when I'm going to be able to come back to the practice court. Maybe two months, maybe one month and a half, maybe three months, maybe four months," he said. Nadal's comments imply that he will not compete at Wimbledon this year, which starts on 3 July, and his participation at the US Open in August is in serious doubt.

Throughout his career Nadal has struggled with a high rate of injuries but in recent years his body has deteriorated. Last year, he made a triumphant return to competition after an absence of almost six months due to a chronic 37 →



Open up your world view with 12 issues for £12

12 issues for £12

The Guardian Weekly magazine helps you catch your breath in a dizzying news cycle. And with our limited time offer, you can keep up with the week's most essential global news for just £1 a week for 12 weeks. You'll find in-depth articles handpicked from the Guardian's award-winning journalism, written by leading minds you can trust.

Try out a subscription today and get 12 issues for £12*

Try now at theguardian.com/12for12 or scan the QR code

The Guardian Weekly

*Offer is 12 issues for £12, followed by a quarterly subscription of £41.25 every 3 months. Offer available only to customers in the United Kingdom. You must be 18+ to be eligible for this offer. You must purchase a Guardian Weekly subscription by 11:59pm GMT on 11/06/2023 to be eligible for this offer. Guardian News and Media reserves the right to end this offer at any time. Offer details correct at time of printing. For full terms and conditions visit theguardian.com/guardian-weekly-subscription-terms-conditions.


QUALITY
AT EVERY
PRICE
£1,299
Miele WEG365 with
advanced fabric care
£349
Hoover H-Wash 300 LITE
with 14-minute quick wash
£678
Bosch WGG24409GB
with EcoSilence Drive™
JOHN LEWIS

Let's teach slavery properly, and connect it to the present *Lola Okolosie, page 3*
Once again, science has delivered hope *Devi Sridhar, page 4*
Ed Davey impresses. But is his party a viable force? *Letters, page 5*

G2 Daily pullout life & arts section *Inside*

The Guardian Friday 19 May 2023

Journal

Opinion and ideas



ILLUSTRATION: DANIELLE RHODA

The world is burning. Why don't people seem to care?

Gaby Hinsliff



The end of the world is nigh, again. And as usual, it's being greeted largely with a shrug. Perhaps you felt a prick of unease as you scrolled the headlines, or half-listened over breakfast to some radio debate about the fact that some time in the next four years the planet is likely to breach the 1.5C rise in global temperature that we have long been told is the tipping point to avoid. (Although this time the breach should be only temporary, the World Meteorological Organisation report stresses that it still takes us into uncharted waters, and if nothing changes the world is likely to cross this dangerous threshold more and more often in future.)

Perhaps you even felt rage or frustration that it's taking everyone else so long to wake up. But the chances are that most people will have forgotten it by lunchtime. YouGov's regular tracker poll finds that British people are still more worried about immigration, which almost a third consider the single most important issue facing the country, than about climate and the environment.

If swing voters were as viscerally scared of flood, fire and catastrophic crop failure as they seem to be of people leaving Calais in dinghies, governments would be turning themselves inside out battling the rising temperature. Just look at the mad, economically self-lacerating lengths the Tories have been willing to go to for the past seven years in the name of supposedly "taking back control" over our borders, and at how frightened Labour still is of contradicting them.

Imagine if Westminster pounced on every global heating forecast like it will on next week's immigration figures, expected to show another rise to record levels; if green issues stirred the same primal emotions as Brexiters' blue passports.

But though the nation says it cares when specifically prodded – three-quarters of adults said they were worried about the climate crisis when asked by the Office for National Statistics – somehow we don't follow through by punishing politicians who fail to deliver. Allow yourself to think about the potential consequences of our collective feebleness, and they're terrifying. But for some reason – arguably *because* they're terrifying – we mostly don't let ourselves think about it very often.

A psychologist would argue that the brain's natural defences against anxiety are strong, and in this case unhelpfully so.

The world is burning. Why don't people seem to care?

Gaby Hinsliff

← Continued from front

We're hardwired to respond to imminent physical threats rather than abstract or distant ones and, crucially, to run away from anything too big to fight.

These survival instincts served humans well in conflict with charging mammoths, but not so much against the kind of abstract but existential risks potentially posed by the climate crisis, hyperintelligent AI or the prospect of antibiotic resistance rendering modern drugs useless. Add in our species' natural bias towards optimism and we are stunningly ill-equipped to deal with pending apocalypses of any kind.

No doubt the media could do more to shove this particular crisis in everyone's faces. But with apologies to those many Guardian readers who genuinely long to see climate issues covered in greater depth, journalists can lead a horse to water but they can't stop it drinking something more relaxing in its lunch hour. The joy and curse of online news is that every newspaper can now see exactly what people are reading: we know how many people skim the headlines of serious stories they'll later swear they read, before devouring every word about Phil 'n' Holly at war on the This Morning sofa.

And the inconvenient truth, to coin a phrase, is that at the time of writing I can see more Guardian readers are engrossed by Harry and Meghan's battle with the paparazzi than by the breaching of the 1.5C threshold. Meanwhile, on Twitter, where users joyfully unconstrained by mainstream media agendas can post about whatever matters most to them, the current trending topics are Kylie Minogue and some basketball game in the US.

Melting ice sheets? Meh. Some things are just too big to get your head around. What looks on the face of it like apathy may be better understood as being overwhelmed, a sort of sagging mental exhaustion; the same feeling that makes you collapse on the sofa with a takeaway again when you know perfectly well you would live longer if you went to the gym.

It's not too late yet. The lesson from the pandemic is that people can be surprisingly willing to make sacrifices for the public good, if we think that everyone else is doing it and if the rewards are clear. Staying at home to save the NHS was the noble thing to do, but it also made you much less likely to die of Covid, and within weeks it was gratifyingly obvious that it was working as case numbers began to fall.

The fight to stay below 1.5C needs to feel like the next national crusade, a battle we are capable of winning and which is therefore worth joining in. There is something oddly puzzling about this government's apparent reluctance to sing its own praises over net zero: Britain evidently isn't decarbonising fast enough, but it still reduced its emissions faster than any other country in the world between 2010 and 2020, a success many Conservatives now seem strangely embarrassed to mention.

Crucially, households need to know what is in it for them if they give up their gas boilers or petrol cars – which in practice means more generous financial subsidies and incentives to cushion the costs of switching, plus investment in the infrastructure to back it up, from car-charging points and battery factories to an army of properly trained heating engineers.

But with one in five voters already saying they think the government spends too much on climate and environment policies, political parties won't risk spending billions more without a clear signal that this really is how we want our taxes spent. And so we go, round and round in an endless circle of dithering.

It isn't rising global temperatures that threaten us in the end so much as the eternal human tendency to put off endlessly until tomorrow that which we can't quite face doing today. What the science is increasingly urgently trying to tell us, much as we may not want to listen, is that we can no longer be sure exactly how many tomorrows we have left.

The Guardian
Founded 1821 Independently owned by the Scott Trust № 54,974
'Comment is free… but facts are sacred' CP Scott

Northern Ireland

This week's elections are a pivotal event for power sharing and UK-EU trust

All politics is local, or so it used to be said. But there was not much sign of that supposed neighbourhood granularity in England's local elections on 4 May. Instead, a majority of English voters appear to have gone to the polls determined to register a national protest against Rishi Sunak's Conservative government at Westminster. There has been even less deference to the parish pump in this week's local elections in Northern Ireland. The 11 so-called super district councils, all proportionally elected, were up for grabs yesterday for only the third time since the reform of local government in 2014. However, the Northern Ireland campaign has been overwhelmingly focused on a bigger political picture too, in this case the future of power sharing at Stormont and the wider tensions caused by Brexit.

None of this should imply that the Northern Ireland elections do not matter, despite an extremely lacklustre campaign. The results, which are due to be announced today and tomorrow, will at least produce local councils that are able to carry out their government functions in spite of the standoff at Stormont. Local democracy of that kind remains genuinely important. The results will also be studied, as ever, for what they say about the balances of political power within and between the two main traditions in Northern Ireland. They may also have something important to say about the health of the country's third tradition, the non-aligned. This group may outpoll both unionists and nationalists this week, yet it is blocked by the Democratic Unionist party's boycott of power sharing from putting its willingness to govern into practice.

There can be no denying that these elections have also been a proxy referendum on the long stalemate – now lasting for more than two years – caused by the DUP boycott. When the Windsor framework of amendments to the Northern Ireland Brexit protocol was agreed between Mr Sunak's UK government and the European Union in February, the DUP refused to be stampeded into acceptance. This gave way to a tacit acceptance in London and Brussels that nothing would move on the issue until the local elections were out of the way. That point, however, has now been reached.

Those who hoped that the completion of the campaign would allow a page to be turned could be in for a disappointment. If the DUP puts in a commanding performance among unionist voters – which polls suggest is unlikely – the party will see the result as an endorsement of its hardline abstentionism and ramp up its demand for changes to the framework. But if the DUP does really badly, it will have little incentive to limp back into the power-sharing institutions in the shadow of Sinn Féin, which is predicted to be a big winner this week.

This is therefore a pivotal moment for the credibility of the power-sharing institutions created by the Good Friday agreement, whose quarter century brought Joe Biden and many others to Northern Ireland last month. It is also a pivotal moment in Mr Sunak's tentative attempts to rebuild other post-Brexit relationships with the EU. The Windsor framework was a necessary down payment to facilitate other agreements, like solving the car industry crisis that has been so dramatically highlighted this week. Now this too is in doubt. The uncomfortable truth is that, whatever the results this week, the DUP has its hand around the throat not just of Northern Ireland, but of Britain's relationship with Europe.

US-China

When governments clash, contact between citizens is harder but more crucial

Richer and more complex stories lie behind dominant narratives, as the British Museum's fascinating new exhibition, China's Hidden Century, reminds us. It challenges the conventional wisdom that the country's "long 19th century" was solely a time of decay and decline. It documents domestic turmoil and aggression and plunder by foreign powers – notably Britain – but also resilience and innovation. By looking beyond the Qing court, it includes individuals, ideas and possibilities that complicate our understanding of China's identity and trajectory. Alongside splendid imperial robes, visitors see a cook's uniform. They hear not only Empress Dowager Cixi's words, but those of the feminist and revolutionary martyr Qiu Jin.

At a time when hostility towards the west and especially the US is growing in China, and vice versa, looking beyond headlines and politicians to other parts of the story is crucial. When intergovernmental relations hit the rocks, the contacts between societies and individuals – whether through tourism, academic discussion or shared cultural interests – are even more important. They can offer a less pressured and public space for exploring options. They can help to build understanding and prevent escalation. Conversely, domestic nationalism can make it harder for governments to pull back in a crisis even if they wish to. As the American and Chinese scholars Scott Kennedy and Wang Jisi warn in a recent report on academic exchange, Breaking the Ice: "Less connectivity is not only a product of worsening ties, it also has contributed to the decline of relations … A rise in estrangement reinforced fears about the other side's motives."

Gallup says that the proportion of Americans with a favourable view of China has plummeted from 38% in 2018 to just 15% this year – a record low. While it is extremely hard to gauge public opinion in China, the business intelligence firm Morning Consult says it found that 66% of adults saw the US as an enemy or unfriendly, while 64% of Americans believed the same of China. A decade ago, 15,000 Americans were studying in China; in the 2020-21 academic year there were just 382. (The US has seen a less dramatic decline in Chinese students.) Severe pandemic restrictions were primarily responsible – but numbers were already dropping, and there is little confidence that they will return to anywhere near the old levels.

China's detention of two Canadians after Ottawa arrested Huawei's chief financial officer, Meng Wanzhou, at the behest of the US, its sanctioning of academics over criticisms of human rights abuses in Xinjiang and the introduction of Hong Kong's draconian national security law have made scholars and others understandably reluctant to travel there. Even businesses, which have often sought to push back against tougher US action, are having second thoughts. Economic stagnation and governmental attempts to "derisk" supply chains are key, but recent raids at high-profile consulting firms that help foreign businesses assess investments have highlighted concerns about staff safety.

On the US side, the surge in anti-Asian hate, the targeting of Chinese scholars for scrutiny and now state legislation banning or restricting land purchases by Chinese nationals have all made it less attractive. Dr Kennedy and Prof Wang note that non-governmental exchanges are necessary though not sufficient to stabilise ties, and urge both sides to restore connections "across the entire span of the two societies". The aim is laudable. It will, however, be extremely hard to realise.



The 'door of no return' monument in Ouidah, Benin
PHOTOGRAPH: AFOLABI SOTUNDE/ REUTERS

Let us teach slavery properly - by connecting it to the present

Lola Okolosie



How do we teach the painful history of transatlantic slavery? As a series of distinct facts relating to the past? Or, to paraphrase the great Toni Morrison, as a weight working itself out in our lives?

When, in the wake of George Floyd's murder, protesters pulled down the statue of the slave trader Edward Colston, something else broke too: the neat lens through which history is understood as events that occurred in another time whose reverberations are dimmed in the present and which we have no power to redress.

I couldn't say much of the above to the pupil who, during a lesson on Caliban in Shakespeare's The Tempest, asked what *good* Black History Month was, if all that was taught related to slavery. The question revealed a great deal, not least a belief that this history had nothing to do with him. My response as his teacher was to emphasise that, yes, there is much more to black history than enslavement, but that, still, this bitter history matters to us all.

Think, I prompted, of Caliban's curse to his master, Prospero, because he taught him his language: "You taught me language; and my profit on 't/ Is, I know how to curse: the red plague rid you,/ For learning me your language!" What parallels could we draw between that and Unesco's prediction that of the 6,000 languages spoken in the world today, half are threatened with extinction? Their biggest predator? English. Had Shakespeare, I asked, anticipated how the UK's history of conquest and dominion would be made manifest each time millions opened their mouths to speak? For educators like me, the challenge, then, is not only the fight to have this history included in our curriculum, but to contextualise for our pupils how it relates to the world today.

This neat trick of viewing the past as concluded was on display again on a recent family holiday to the Republic of Benin. Determined to give my children a sense of the history elided in the English curriculum, I booked a walking tour following the slave route in what was once west Africa's busiest slave port, Ouidah. We began in Auction Square. Here, those captured in the raids by the Dahomey kingdom were "exchanged". Our guide, Oscar, who apologised for his excellent English, pointed to an imposing building known locally as Place Chacha. It was named so in honour of Francisco Félix de Souza, a Brazilian viceroy and powerful slave merchant; Oscar told us that on auction days, De Souza would try to speed up the process of selling humans by using the neologism "chacha".

> **"I told my student there was much more to black history than enslavement. But this bitter history still matters to us all**

De Souza would go on to settle permanently in Ouidah. Today, Oscar informed us, De Souza's descendants continue to reside on the site of their ancestor's former residence. A grand four-storey palace stared down at us. Stunned by the revelation, I asked about anger and reparations, but Oscar waved my question away. Since De Souza married local women, his offspring were "one of us". Bygones are bygones. And as for reparations? They had been paid when, post-abolition, a contingent of formerly enslaved people returned from Brazil demanding compensation. The king of Dahomey agreed to this, giving land, now the town's Brazilian quarter, to the returnees. Oscar guided our gaze to a district of dilapidated single-storey buildings directly opposite Place Chacha. If we hadn't already been to Brazil, he joked, we now could say we had.

I couldn't laugh at the well-meaning joke. Wasn't this a stark visual of the past in the present? Wasn't the history of plunder visible right there in the grandeur of Place Chacha? Wasn't the cheapness of compensation paid by those made powerful from accumulated wealth, who set the terms of what is "fair", evident in the crumbling structures of Ouidah's Brazilian quarter?

The tour ended with the group standing beside the "door of no return". A huge concrete arch covered in etchings of shackled bodies, it symbolises the embarkation point of enslaved people being sent to the Americas. It was, however, undergoing renovation and thus was ringfenced. Our guide pointed instead to a blue imitation arch adorned with Chinese script and the name Yunnan Construction and Investment Holding Group. This, Oscar told us, was the new Marina Project.

The project - an extensive tourist complex containing several hotels with restaurants, memorial gardens and a spa - also features a full-scale replica slave ship, which visitors apparently will be able to enter in order to experience the horror of the hold.

Benin, keen to promote itself as a place to which Afro-Brazilians, African Americans and Caribbeans can "return", is, to be sure, doing important work in elevating the presence of this painful heritage. But watching the Marina Project promotional video released by the government detailing the look and feel of the site, I felt nothing but dread. Animated people, dressed in western garb, sitting at tables on restaurant terraces overlooking those sunning themselves on loungers or taking a dip in pools. It promised a sanitised walk through history.

For educators in England, the lesson is clear. It is not enough to simply give our pupils knowledge of this history. There is work, too, in helping them draw the links between the past and how it has shaped the world we know. In doing so, we might be able to accept the truth: that it is a shared history with which all of us must reckon.

COTTON CAPITAL

Cotton Capital is a series about how slavery changed the Guardian, Britain and the world

theguardian.com/news/series/cotton-capital

*

Lola Okolosie *is a writer and English teacher*



Once again, science has delivered hope

Devi Sridhar



Could a new treatment developed by the US pharmaceutical company Lilly mean "the beginning of the end" of Alzheimer's? Could we even cure the disease some day? These are the types of headlines and questions swirling around after news of a new drug, called donanemab, showed promising results in phase-3 trials at slowing down the decline in cognitive functions and reducing the deterioration in the ability to undertake daily tasks independently.

Alzheimer's is the most common cause of dementia, accounting for 60-70% of cases. It is not a normal part of ageing, even though it largely affects those over 65. It's a degenerative disease where symptoms worsen over years, starting with mild memory loss and moving towards the complete loss of ability to recognise loved ones and caregivers, confusion and disorientation between the past and present, and the inability to live independently. It can be heartbreaking for families to watch the deterioration of loved ones who almost become like a different person, with extreme mood and behavioural changes.

The brain science behind Alzheimer's is complex, but CT and MRI scans suggest that toxic changes occur in the brain, including the abnormal buildup of proteins called amyloid plaques and tau tangles. The damage starts in the parts of the brain essential for forming memories but then spreads throughout the organ, with brain tissue shrinking significantly.

Developing treatments for Alzheimer's has been a challenge, with almost 20 years passing with no new drugs. But in the last year, two new ones have emerged: donanemab and lecanemab. Neither are cures or magic bullets for the disease, but they do address key symptoms. They target the amyloid proteins that can accumulate in the brain and damage neurons, slowing down its progression. Lilly claimed in a press release that donanemab slowed mental decline by 35% in a 1,736-person trial.

And while this news is exciting, there are major caveats. One is whether it will ever become available on the NHS. The cost is estimated to be about £20,000 per person per year of treatment. While lucrative for drug companies, and likely to be aimed at the US healthcare market, in the UK it could become a "luxury" good for those able to pay vast sums of money in the growing private healthcare sector.

Another is the serious side-effects: in the study, brain swelling occurred in 24% of participants and brain bleeding occurred in 31.4% on the drug compared with 13.6% in the placebo group. There were also three deaths during the trial, which have been linked to Aria (amyloid-related imaging abnormalities) - seizures and bleeding in the brain.

Regulators such as the US Food and Drug Administration and Britain's Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency play an important role in assessing these findings and determining whether the drug's effectiveness outweighs the side-effects, or whether use should be limited to a more targeted group. They will probably make a decision by the end of 2023 on approval for clinical use.

Part of the problem for me, as an academic, in assessing the drug is that the full results of the trial haven't yet been shared publicly or published in a peer-review journal.

So far all the information is by pharmaceutical press release ("science by press release" was also a challenge at the height of the Covid-19 pandemic). This means we cannot access the full data or scrutinise the trial yet, and there is always an incentive for private companies to overstate the effectiveness of new drugs. Trial results need to be assessed robustly by an independent body of experts.

While it is unlikely to change clinical practice until at least 2025, the news of donanemab is again an indication that science is continuing to make progress when it comes to treating the major causes of illness and death, even one related to the highly complex inner workings of the brain.

We've rarely managed to "cure" a disease completely, but we have managed to develop tools to reduce the pain and debilitating symptoms of various diseases - and improve the quality and length of people's lives. So, there are caveats and the need for caution, but these new Alzheimer's drugs are indeed the grounds for that rare thing these days: hope.

✱
Devi Sridhar *is chair of global public health at the University of Edinburgh*

Letters

guardian.letters@theguardian.com
@guardianletters

Established 1906

Country diary

Wylam, Northumberland

This lowland pastoral landscape around Northumberland Wildlife Trust's Close House Riverside reserve, on the north bank of the Tyne, is an unlikely place to find a mountain wild flower, the nationally scarce alpine pennycress. But in spring, an area of grassland about the size of a football pitch is enlivened by its blunt-ended white flower spikes, tinged mauve when they first open.

Percy Thrower, whose TV gardening shows earned him celebrity status in the 1960s and 70s, would surely have had a theory as to why this montane member of the cabbage family thrives here. He often prefaced answers to botanical conundrums with the phrase "the answer lies in the soil", and that indeed explains why *Noccaea caerulescens* is abundant on the reserve. This is calaminarian grassland, a rare habitat contaminated with centuries of accumulated heavy metal deposits, washed downriver from mine spoil tips in the high Pennines.

Alpine pennycress roots are comfortable here; it's a metallophyte, safely accumulating zinc and lead at concentrations 30 times higher than would kill most plants. Its local abundance is the consequence of floods and an industry that began long ago, when people first learned to mine and smelt metallic ores.

That might also explain why we found a morel toadstool here, in riverside woodland a little further downstream. This gourmet's delight, eagerly sought by fungal foragers, has an affinity for heavy metals. Experiments in China, inoculating industrial sites with its mycelium, suggest that it could prove useful for removing toxic metal residues from contaminated land.

I've never tasted this uncommon, weirdly fascinating toadstool, with its tennis-ball-sized honeycomb cap. It resembles a brain on a stalk, so much so that it might be no surprise if it pulsated. Poisonous when raw, but an epicurean delight after cooking, apparently; morel with chicken breast, marsala and cream sounds tempting, though seasoning with unknown concentrations of toxic heavy metals makes it less appealing. I'm fascinated by fungi for their otherworldly beauty and biology, rather than their culinary potential – and this is a nature reserve, so harvesting it would be out of the question.
Phil Gates

We may edit letters. Submission and publication of letters is subject to our terms and conditions: see theguardian.com/letters-terms

Ed Davey impresses, but is his party a viable force?

Zoe Williams' sympathetic interview with Ed Davey (When I'm not here, who will look after my son? 16 May) asks many pertinent personal and political questions, but omits the vital issue of whether the Liberal Democrats are a viable electoral force with an identifiable political philosophy. Is there such a thing as "Liberal Democratism"? It is now 35 years since the Liberal party voted to merge with the SDP. It is surely time to examine whether or not it was worthwhile.

At the 1987 election, just one year before the parties merged, their combined vote was 22.6%. Now, opinion polls since the party's recent local election successes show a voting intention of around 10%. The party's overall gains in the 4 May elections in England were certainly very noteworthy, but they hid poor results in the 16 largest cities; in these councils, the Liberal Democrats gained just six seats and only hold 113 out of 1,193 councillors. The difference is quite simply that to make and sustain a significant vote in the large wards involved in these cities requires a high core vote rather than just incessant local campaigning. The Liberal Democrats simply do not have a viable core vote.

Having deliberately cut themselves off from the benefits of the identifiable tradition of political Liberalism, the Liberal Democrats now lack a solid base to advance electorally. And the almost ubiquitous abbreviation to "Lib Dem" diminishes still further any resonance with the past. It is high time the party accepted the harm done to Liberalism by its attachment to the SDP and rebuilt its Liberal base.
Michael Meadowcroft
Liberal MP, Leeds West, 1983-87

● Thank you, Zoe Williams, for the very touching interview with Ed Davey. It was clear that you were moved by what you discovered about a committed, loving and compassionate man who is a politician because he longs to be there for other people – and to assist them to change their worlds. This is in stark contrast to the recent leadership – and would-be leaders – of the current, self-serving governing party.

You ended by saying: "It would be funny if … I ended up voting Lib Dem." No, Zoe, not "funny", just sensible – particularly if you live in a constituency that can best be wrenched from the grasp of the Tories by the Lib Dems. So just do it, Zoe! We might all then be rejoicing at seeing the back of the worst government of my lifetime.
Ted Pawley
Great Linford, Milton Keynes

● In her profile of Ed Davey, Zoe Williams refers to him losing his seat for two years in 2015. A key reason for his ousting was that, while in the coalition government, he reneged on his pledge to oppose the trebling of university tuition fees, a policy which is causing increasing hardship to many students and graduates. So his claims about fighting the Tories need to be taken with a considerable pinch of salt.
Name and address supplied

● Zoe Williams' interview with Ed Davey had a most unusual impact on me: I finished reading it and joined the Lib Dems.
Dr Elena Liquete
Corsham, Wiltshire

The view from Germany on its change of heart

Thanks to John Kampfner for his article (Sunak may aid Zelenskiy's war, but Germany will be pivotal, 16 May). True, it took a long time for Germany to come to this dramatic decision on its military aid policy. But it makes me sad that very few of our European partners took the trouble to understand our nation's hesitation. British voices especially were only too happy to rehash the old song about the unloved Germany, the eternally handicapped decision-maker.

Born in the postwar Germany of 1947, and having lived just a few kilometres away from the barbed wire and minefields of the East German border, and experienced all the awful fears of another war of everyone around us – deep in the bones of our families and teachers – I understand how this has made us a careful people. Sandwiched between two ideologies, West Germany and East Germany represented the arrowheads of two opposing systems, a situation that overshadowed our lives every day.

When I first came to England in the 60s, I was shocked about the lack of political interest in what was going on outside Britain. At least our depressing German role in the past has taught us – accompanied by strong political awareness and a profound interest in other nations and history – a feeling of deep responsibility. In a nutshell, I'd rather be colourless and boring like Olaf Scholz than responsible for more destruction. Hesitation has given us a chance to weigh up the facts responsibly before coming to a decision, even if no one seems to understand this.
Marrie Powell
Eschershausen, Germany

● John Kampfner is of course right that Germany's role in the Russian-Ukrainian conflict will be pivotal, and his description of Olaf Scholz's behaviour and character is to the point. However, it was not only the Social Democrats who were "salon pacifists". The same applies to members of the Christian Democratic Union, especially those who grew up in East Germany.

One example is Angela Merkel. She was on the whole a good chancellor. But she should have recognised Vladimir Putin's aims and intentions much earlier, and adjusted her policy accordingly.

Even today, more than 30 years after the *Wende*, there is quite a remarkable difference between East and West Germans regarding our country's attitude towards Russia. East Germans seem to show much more understanding for Russia and Putin, and are still today rather critical of the US and the EU.
Renata von Toerne
Hof, Germany

Let's see the wrinkles on older cover stars

Not only do I totally agree with Zoe Williams' article (Is Martha Stewart's Sports Illustrated cover a diversity breakthrough? No, it's just window dressing, 16 May), I'd like to take it one step further. As a woman now in my 50s, I feel that Martha Stewart's appearance is a reflection of the media's pressure on women to look a certain way as we age. Why do we have to look at a model in her 80s without a single wrinkle – what's real about that? We'll start truly celebrating women when we recognise that with age comes much wisdom and experience. Let's see that image on the front of more magazines.

I want to feel proud of my body as I get older and released from the ridiculous standards the media placed on me in my youth. My heart sank when I saw the photo in Sports Illustrated. Now we're even being told how to age – just as I thought they weren't interested in us any more. I see it as a cynical marketing ploy to access the consumer pounds of affluent members of society.

My teenage years were painful and filled with struggles as a result of what I was told to look like by the magazines and billboards around me. Please leave me to enjoy my old age!
Kelly Hosking
Ipswich

Corrections and clarifications

● **The new crime of "intentionally or recklessly causing public nuisance" – created by the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 – carries a penalty of up to 10 years, not 12 months, in prison (The police can do whatever they want with protesters now, 13 May, Journal, p4).**

● **Rishi Sunak was attending a Council of Europe meeting in Iceland, not Finland (Alarm as ministers target housing standards to cut asylum hotels bill, 17 May, p13 from p1, early editions).**

Editorial complaints and corrections can be sent to guardian.readers@theguardian.com or The readers' editor, **Kings Place, 90 York Way, London N1 9GU.** You can also leave a voicemail on **020 3353 4736**

When Keir defended the right to protest

Like Louise Christian (Letters, 16 May), I instructed barrister Keir Starmer (as he was) in an appeal about the right to protest, but we were successful. In 1999, Margaret Jones and Richard Lloyd challenged their conviction for "trespassory assembly" (during a Stonehenge protest). The lord chancellor was part of the three-to-two majority that affirmed a public right of peaceful assembly on the highway.
Philip Leach
Middlesex University

● Reading Adrian Chiles (I thought my ums and ahs made for better radio. I was wrong, 11 May), surely the ultimate de-ummers must be the brilliant Hansard writers, who could make even John Prescott sound like a Ciceronian orator.
Jerry Emery
Lewes, East Sussex

● Meurig Bowen's plan to promote classical music is a good one (G2, 17 May). As an early-years teacher, I introduced children to a variety of music. Everything was sung to three chords on the guitar; the advantage over a piano is that you can keep a beady eye on the class.
Monica Channell
Beckenham, London

● We once acquired an elegant cat who quickly made it clear that she hated people and wanted to be alone. We christened her Garbo (Letters, 18 May).
Caroline Boyce
Dollar, Clackmannanshire

● When my wife and I named our dog Geoffrey because of his shy, bookish demeanour, we had no idea so many human Geoffreys enjoyed the inland waterways. Or how thin-skinned so many of them would be.
Ian Grieve
Gordon Bennett, Llangollen canal



Steuart Padwick

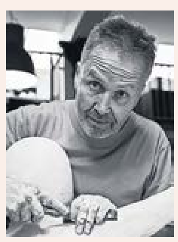
Sculptor and furniture designer of both bespoke and popular, mass-produced pieces

For a week in September 2018, walkers on the South Bank in London found themselves faced with a 9-metre-high human profile in wood, gazing across the Thames from a pier opposite Gabriel's Wharf. With the distant feel of one of Naum Gabo's early constructivist pieces, this was Head Above Water, the work of the designer and sculptor Steuart Padwick, who has died of stomach cancer aged 63.

The sculpture was arresting by day, and more so by night. Passersby could message the head from their mobile phones, alerting it to their feelings. Head Above Water would light up accordingly, its palette changing with the dominant temper of the texts it received: blue for melancholy, green for calm and so on. It thus became, briefly, an emotional thermometer for London, a measure of the capital's mood. "You can play with it - hashtag happy, hashtag sad - and change the colours in real time," Padwick explained in a video on the work's website. "And that's kind of fun. But it also makes you realise that you can change your emotions."

He had reason to be interested in this. Beneath the optimism of his message lay a faint wistfulness of manner. Head Above Water's title was autobiographical. For much of his adult life, Padwick had experienced periods of depression.

The sculpture had been made to help publicise the mental health charity Time to Change. (This lost its funding and closed in 2021.) Four years before the South Bank project, Padwick had been on a studio residency in the US on an island off Maine. While there, he had constructed a sculpture made up of a stone pillar at the water's edge topped by a stone bowl that would stay visible at high tide. "I'd been struggling for so long at the bottom of the sea, gulping for the odd bit of air," Padwick recalled. Now, for the moment, he saw that his head was above water.



Head Above Water on the banks of the Thames in London in 2018; and Padwick working on a model for the child of Hope

DAN PATON; JAMES RUDONIS

What made his story emblematic of depression was that there seemed so little reason for him to have it. The son of a Royal Navy officer, Michael Padwick, and his wife, Nita (nee Harris), an artist, Padwick had a childhood that was, on the face of it, both conventional and comfortable.

Commander Padwick was on a year-long tour on HMS Belfast when his elder son was born, in Plymouth, Devon. Postings in Australia and Scotland meant a peripatetic childhood for the boy. As was usual for the sons of naval officers, he was sent off as a boarder at eight. Due to move on to his father's old public school, a feeder for the navy, Padwick was instead sent to Bedales, a famously liberal, coeducational school. "It must have been my mother who decided that I should go there," he mused later. "She was the creative one."

Among the school's eccentricities was a carpentry workshop. "I learned how to cut a mortice and tenon joint and so on, and realised I had a knack for it," Padwick said. From Bedales, he went on, in 1977, to the newly opened School for Craftsmen in Wood (later Parnham College), near Beaminster in Dorset, brainchild of the designer John Makepeace. This was followed by two years, 1981-82, studying furniture design at the Royal College of Art, with Jasper Morrison as a contemporary.

> **"I did have one safe haven. I lived in the workshop as much as I could**

By now, Padwick had set up his own design studio with three Parnham friends. His first commission, from the Duke of Beaufort, was for a wardrobe meant as a wedding present for the Prince of Wales and Lady Diana Spencer. "They absolutely hated it," the rueful designer recalled. "I was gutted at the time but now I find it quite funny." Three decades later, Padwick was again commissioned to design royal furniture, this time for the children of the current Prince and Princess of Wales. The resulting suite of nursery table and chairs, in Teletubby colours, drew a more enthusiastic response.

Alongside these bespoke pieces, Padwick had also had more commercial success. While his own-name brand, launched in 2009, had been well received critically - clients included the Conran Shop, where he had once been a buyer - this was not reflected by income from sales. ("I was going broke," the designer said baldly, in an interview in 2017.) Then, in 2010, he was approached by the online design brand Made.com to work on its launch range.

If Padwick was initially doubtful about the offer, the partnership proved beneficial for both sides. By the time of his death, Made was selling more than 10,000 pieces of his work each year, among them the red-drawered Fonteyn console desk, its legs splayed like a ballerina *en jeté*. This gave Padwick time to concentrate on other design work, such as the Double Cross dining table, its folding, X-shaped legs lacquered in bright orange or yellow. It also allowed him to make sculpture, including the 23-metre-high Hope (2021), a child, arms outstretched, perched above a woodland park on the site of Glasgow's last working coalmine.

All these were marked by a punning lightheartedness that their maker had not always been able to feel. Even as a schoolboy, he had struggled with a sense of abandonment. "I did have one safe haven," Padwick recalled. "I lived in the workshop as much as I could." In later life he threw himself into skiing and paragliding, and with both had serious accidents. The irony of his position struck him. "People aren't ashamed of saying 'I broke my leg', but we're embarrassed to say, 'Oh, I've had depression'."

He is survived by his partner, Natalie May (formerly Alexopoulos), and a son, Todd, from an earlier relationship with Vanessa Ewan, and by his siblings, Lisa and Rob.

Charles Darwent

Steuart Charles Padwick, designer and sculptor, born 25 November 1959; died 3 April 2023

Donald Hinds

Writer, teacher and historian whose books provided an insight into the lives of postwar Black immigrants

When the writer and educator Donald Hinds, newly arrived in London from Jamaica, with impeccable manners attended his appointment at the Brixton labour exchange in the mid-1950s, he did so with a certain spring in his step. After all, he had his national exam certificates and the classroom experience that he was certain would land him a good teaching job in the "mother country", as he called it.

The clerks there had other ideas, and signposted him to try out for the role of "transport executive bus conductor" with London Transport. Donald, who has died aged 89, recalled that "it sounded very grand". He passed the test and was posted to Brixton bus garage in Streatham Hill, where he became the fifth Black conductor in the company. It was handy for him that one of the drivers who had been asked about the potential pairing told the bosses that he did not mind "working with a coloured".

Donald would later write that he enjoyed his time on the buses, nine years and four months, and his experiences as a "clippie" would inspire him to write the groundbreaking book, Journey to an Illusion (1966). The book provided an insight into the lives of postwar Black immigrants for whom, in the main, the book's title could not have been more apposite. It was a revelation and a critical success.

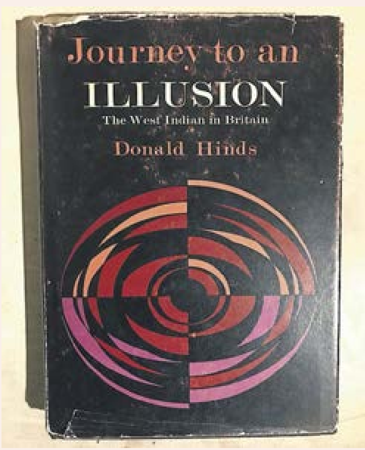
While working on the buses, in 1958, Donald met Claudia Jones, the Trinidadian political activist and exile from the US. She mentored him to become first a stringer then a regular reporter for the West Indian Gazette newspaper, which she edited.

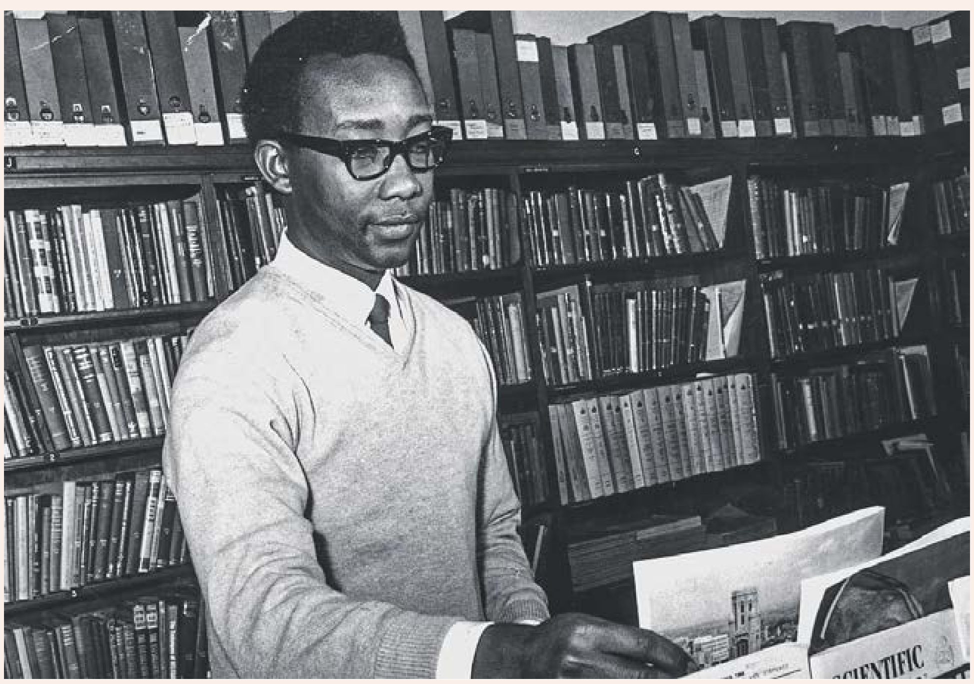
In 1964 the Observer published an article by Donald about immigration, The Two Way Dream. He was then commissioned by a literary agent to expand the theme into book form, which became Journey to an Illusion.

According to the academic and activist Gus John, Hinds's work was "a must read for each new generation of those white and black citizens who have the task of knowing the past in order to understand the present … Using the testimonies of a wide cross-section of 'Citizens of the United Kingdom and Colonies' … Donald laid bare the struggle Britain was having with itself, because the way it had sold itself to its colonial subjects did not tally with the reality they were confronting.

"As such, Journey to an Illusion was as much a story about Britain and the kind of society it really was and still is, than about those whose dreams were being shattered."

Out of print for more than 30 years, Journey to an Illusion was republished in 2001, "an essential guide to the vagaries of our mixed-up, mixed-race world", according to the Guardian.





Hinds had various civil service roles, including working for the Post Office library; Journey to an Illusion was first published in 1966
BLACK STOCK PHOTOS

Born in Kingston, Donald was raised by his grandmother in Richmond Gap, St Thomas, after his mother, Teresa, travelled to Britain for work in 1951. He attended the elementary school there, where he became a pupil-teacher until the age of 18.

Donald wrote that from the age of 14 he had wanted to be a writer and a schoolteacher. He recalled: "I had a great appetite for reading to the extent that between April 1954 and August 1955, I had read 104 books, including Shakespeare's 37 plays, and the complete poetic output of Walter Scott, while writing poems, short stories and a historical novel."

That August, in 1955, Donald sailed to the UK on the SS Auriga, to join his mother and stepfather, Mr Ashley, first in Elephant and Castle, south London, then Brixton. In 1957, he moved out to a room in Brixton Hill, close to his day job.

Donald recalled the daily humiliations he experienced at work, such as when a cleaner likened him to the golliwog on the Robertson's jam jar just as he thought she was about to announce his resemblance to Harry Belafonte. It was to the credit of the dignified, cricket-loving man that he did not allow such low balls to disrupt his discipline and focus.

The transport job provided the security he needed while studying at evening classes, having to retake the exams he had already qualified in in Jamaica, and doing freelance writing for emerging Black publications such as Flamingo, Joffa Magazine and the West Indian Gazette. He was also doing occasional broadcasts with the BBC's Caribbean Service.

At the Gazette, Jones encouraged her young protege to write articles about issues affecting the developing Black community, and he became her news reporter. She sent him to interview visiting luminaries such as James Baldwin and Paul Robeson.

In 1961 Donald married Dawn Bruce, a nurse who later became a social worker. With a young family to support, he held down various civil service roles, including working for the Post Office library. He continued evening classes, while contributing to publications such as Stories from the Caribbean, an anthology edited by Andrew Salkey, which included work by Jan Carew, George Lamming and Samuel Selvon. He would later become, from 1972, alongside James Berry, the joint secretary of the Caribbean Artists Movement.

About 20 years after trying for a job in teaching, his ambition was realised in the mid-70s when he gained his teacher-training certificate, and became a history teacher at Tulse Hill school, rising to be deputy head of department (1977-85).

After becoming head of history at Geoffrey Chaucer school in Southwark (1985-97), he completed his master's in social and industrial history, and wrote the textbook Black Peoples of the Americas (1991). He would go on to become senior lecturer in history and supervisor of trainee teachers at London South Bank University, retiring from there in 2007.

Donald wrote seven novels, but only one, Mother Country, was published, in 2014.

I invited him to write two chapters for an anthology I edited, When I Came to England (2001; expanded edition 2014), a collection of Caribbean oral histories by people who came to the UK between the 1940s and 60s. An associated exhibition will take place next month at the Department for Transport, as part of its observance of Windrush Day. Donald's story will be celebrated as part of this exhibition.

Donald is survived by Dawn, two daughters, Carol and Tracy, four grandchildren and a great-granddaughter. Another daughter, Jackie, died in 2014.

Nia Reynolds

Donald Lloyd Hinds, writer and educator, born 13 January 1934; died 13 March 2023

Birthdays

Prof Sir John Ball, mathematician, 75; **Sir Christopher Chope**, Conservative MP, 76; **Chinonye Chukwu**, film director, 38; **Yazz (Evans)**, singer, 63; **Herbie Flowers**, musician, 85; **James Fox**, actor, 84; **Dario Franchitti**, racing driver, 50; **Prof Gillian Gehring**, solid state physicist, 82; **David Helfgott**, pianist, 76; **Lord (Patrick) Hodge**, deputy president of the supreme court, 70; **Prof Morna Hooker**, theologian, 92; **Grace Jones**, singer, actor, 75; **Lord (Igor) Judge**, former lord chief justice of England and Wales, 82; **Sir Oliver Letwin**, former Conservative MP and minister, 67; **Jodi Picoult**, author, 57; **Prof Alice Roberts**, biological anthropologist and broadcaster, 50; **Phil Rudd**, drummer, 69; **Sam Smith**, singer, 31; **Eleanor Tomlinson**, actor, 31; **Pete Townshend**, guitarist, 78; **Stephen Varcoe**, baritone, 74; **Martyn Ware**, musician, 67; **Heather Watson**, tennis player, 31.

Puzzles

Yesterday's solutions

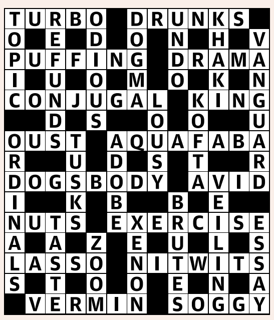
Killer sudoku
Easy

9	6	7	4	5	3	1	2	8
3	2	8	6	1	7	9	5	4
5	1	4	8	9	2	7	6	3
8	3	1	9	7	5	6	4	2
7	4	2	1	8	6	5	3	9
6	5	9	3	2	4	8	1	7
2	7	3	5	6	9	4	8	1
1	9	5	2	4	8	3	7	6
4	8	6	7	3	1	2	9	5

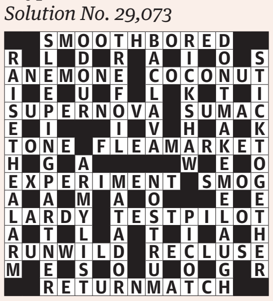
Medium

1	4	9	8	2	7	6	5	3
3	7	2	6	5	1	8	4	9
6	5	8	3	9	4	2	1	7
5	2	7	1	3	6	9	8	4
9	3	1	4	8	5	7	2	6
4	8	6	9	7	2	5	3	1
2	6	4	5	1	9	3	7	8
8	9	5	7	4	3	1	6	2
7	1	3	2	6	8	4	9	5

Codeword



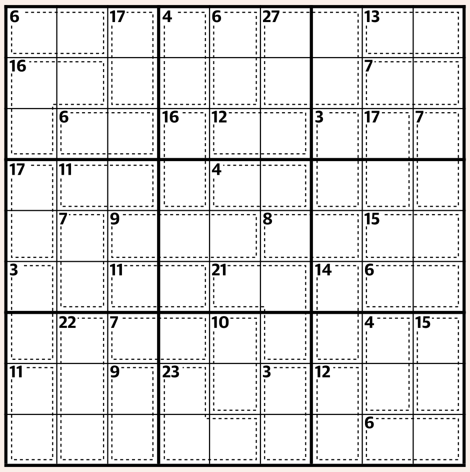
Cryptic crossword
Solution No. 29,073



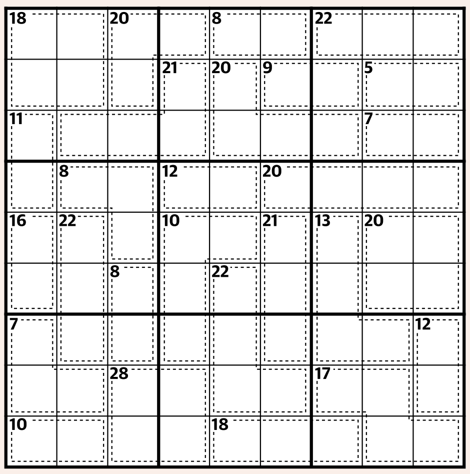
Killer sudoku

Easy

The normal rules of sudoku apply: fill each row, column and 3x3 box with all the numbers from 1 to 9. In addition, the digits in each inner shape (marked by dots) must add up to the number in the top corner of that box. No digit can be repeated within an inner shape.

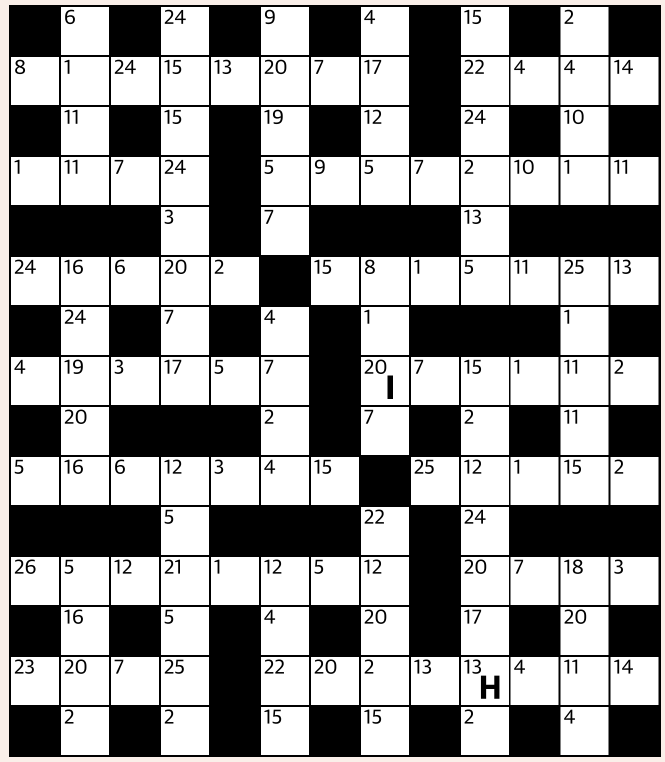


Medium



Codeword

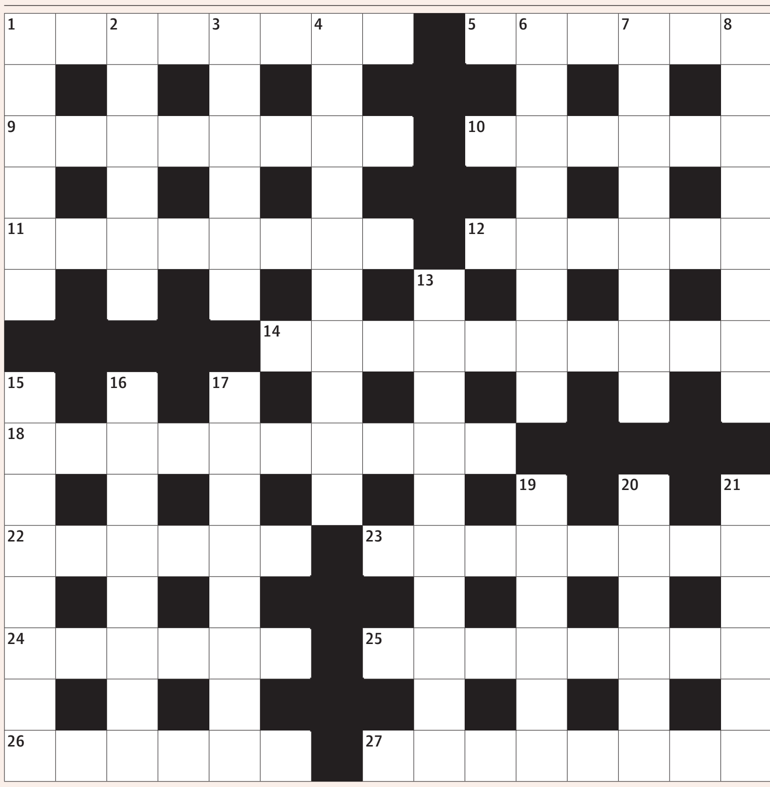
Each letter of the alphabet makes at least one appearance in the grid, and is represented by the same number wherever it appears. The letters decoded should help you to identify other letters and words in the grid.



A B C D E F G ~~H~~ ~~I~~ J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13 H
14	15	16	17	18	19	20 I	21	22	23	24	25	26

Guardian cryptic crossword No 29,074 set by Vlad



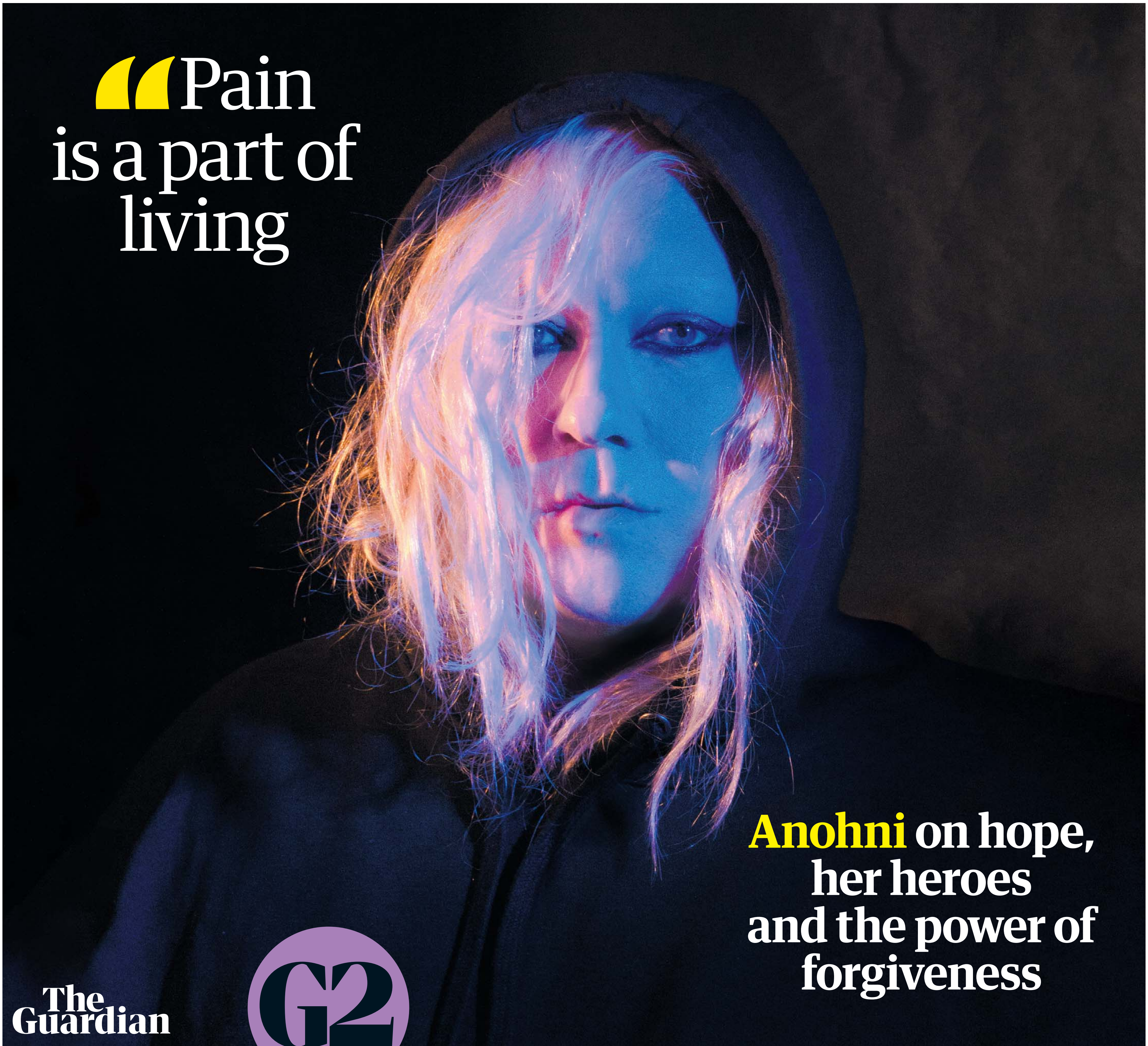
Across

1 Singer's Round 1 elimination – that's a surprise (2,6)
5,15 King fighting heartfelt rage over Duke? (6,3,5)
9 Hit useless horse (4,4)
10 Massage oil in bed – don't get so excited! (4,2)
11 Flat's unfashionable, I agree (8)
12 Regrets I may harbour over man (6)
14 Shared love admitted by veiled lady – it isn't proper! (6,4)
18 Lab assistant? (7,3)
22 Though not large, pleased to be given something handy (6)
23 Describing time travelling options, here's Hawking (8)
24 Presumably she wouldn't have voted for Brexit (6)
25 Initially Guardian setter's brilliant (or inferior?) (8)
26 Force under pressure males on drugs to stop dangerous races (3,3)
27 Had constitutional crisis finally – rang to get Queen involved (8)

Down

1 Hairy creature's sign of displeasure in bar (6)
2 Scandalous conclusion – Vlad getting thrown in cell! (6)
3 Money transfer rejected in beginning (6)
4 Crack down hard over personnel to survive (3,7)
6 These could be Asian lot (8)
7 Telling disclosure – not against English (8)
8 Topple the high flyer outside (8)
13 Eastern doctor working at sharp end displays a fuller figure (10)
15 See 5
16 At first, dirty old man's uplifted during rarely clean entertainment (3,5)
17 He's a fount of knowledge? Group of ladies crease up (8)
19 Plaster over gashes used up, Charlie gathered (6)
20 Extra posh bloke? Quite (2-4)
21 Wound in side originally not dressed (6)

Stuck? For help call **0906 200 83 83**. Calls cost £1.10 per minute, plus your phone company's access charge. Service supplied by ATS. Call **0330 333 6946** for customer service (charged at standard rate). **Want more?** Get access to more than 4,000 puzzles at **theguardian.com/crossword**. To buy puzzle books, visit **guardianbookshop.com** or call **0330 333 6846**.*



Friday 19/05/23

Film & Music

‘Art and genitals’
Caligula rides again
page 4

Laugh it up, fuzzball
Harrison Ford films – ranked!
page 2





Ranked! Harrison Ford films

As the fifth Indiana Jones film swings into Cannes, we celebrate the charismatic carpenter. By Ryan Gilbey

1
What Lies Beneath *(2000)*
Robert Zemeckis's nerve-shredding horror stars Ford and Michelle Pfeiffer as a couple dealing with empty-nest syndrome and ghosts. Ford is revelatory in the darkest work of his career. He must already have been confident of his capacity for menace: a decade earlier, Martin Scorsese invited him to play the harassed lawyer in Cape Fear but Ford wanted the role of the psychopath, which went to Robert De Niro. Here he delivers a corrosive portrait of a man who has gone to seed and is going to hell.

2
Raiders of the Lost Ark *(1981)*
Ford's wry, world-weary performance as Indiana Jones is vital in establishing the tone of a blockbuster that never takes itself too seriously. The set pieces are executed with clockwork precision but it is Ford's sweaty, sexy, semi-shambolic presence that stops it feeling mechanical.

3
Witness *(1985)*
Ford received his first and only Oscar nomination for playing a cop who hides out in an Amish community. His tender performance – especially while crooning along to Sam Cooke's Wonderful World – goes a long way towards compensating for the picture's homespun folksiness.

4
The Mosquito Coast *(1986)*
Reuniting with his Witness director Peter Weir for this Paul Schrader-scripted film of Paul Theroux's novel, Ford is the misguidedly idealistic father who drags his family (including wife Helen Mirren and son River Phoenix) into the jungles of Central America to start a new life. His eventual mania never quite convinces but his sincerity is beyond doubt.

5
Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom *(1984)*
The most thrilling instalment of the series gives Ford a chance to show off his range: he has some enjoyable screwball-style sparring with Kate Capshaw and the young Ke Huy Quan, revels in full-on matinee-idol aplomb in the opening sequence in a Shanghai nightclub, and commandeers some rough-and-tumble action in the second half.

6
American Graffiti *(1973)*
As Bob Falfa, who cruises through Modesto in a 1955 Chevrolet, Ford turns up now and again in George Lucas's nostalgic comedy like a favourite refrain. There's a real sweetness to him here, heightened by our knowledge that he was in his last years of relative normality before Star Wars mania kicked in.

7
The Fugitive *(1993)*
Tommy Lee Jones won a best supporting actor Oscar for his role as the deputy marshal in this big-screen version of the 1960s TV series about a surgeon on the run after being falsely accused of his wife's murder. Ford, though, is superb as the grounded, hounded hero.

8
The Empire Strikes Back *(1980)*
Ford had significant input into his character by the time the first Star Wars sequel came around. As Han Solo is about to be frozen in carbonite, Leia (Carrie Fisher) tells him: "I love you." It was Ford who came up with the arrogant retort ("I know"), improving immeasurably on the scripted reply ("I love you, too").

9
Working Girl *(1988)*
After taking on Roman Polanski's drab thriller Frantic and this Mike Nichols-directed yuppie romcom, it isn't surprising that Ford was being talked up as the next Cary Grant. That was over-optimistic, but he does bring a charming mix of suave and befuddled to the role of financial high-flyer.

10
K-19: The Widowmaker *(2002)*
Co-star Peter Sarsgaard admired Ford's performance in Kathryn Bigelow's submarine thriller. "None of us knew what the hell we were saying: 'Shut down No 3 generator, blah-blah-blah,'" Sarsgaard said. "Do you give up on that or do you try to find some meaning for yourself? Well, everything has meaning for Harrison. I never saw him throw something away."

See the full list of 20 at theguardian.com/film

Playlist



1 Bar Italia
Missus Morality
The brightest highlight on one of the albums of 2023 so far, out today: the London trio craft a dream-pop anthem that disconsolately mopes its way into transcendence.

2 Call Super and Julia Holter
Illumina
Techno-pop of the most elevated and elegant kind. Over a pattering, pounding beat played with live hi-hats, Holter sings a line that falls like a spiralling sycamore seed.

3 Pangaea
Installation
The fidget-house revival starts here as the Hessle Audio producer turns in an irrepressibly fun track that will be heard everywhere from Ibizan terraces to Berlin dives this summer.

4 Julie Byrne
The Greater Wings
The title track from the US songwriter's new album is a piercingly pure and profound tribute to human connections, with an appropriately otherworldly glow.

5 Róisín Murphy
The Universe
Another, albeit very different song about cosmically aligned lovers: Murphy unites with DJ Koze for a balmy devotional that interpolates Row, Row, Row Your Boat.

6 Shapednoise
Family (ft Armand Hammer)
Over one of the heaviest rap productions imaginable, its beats staggering slowly forward as if caught in digital quicksand, outsider duo Armand Hammer portend poverty and social collapse.

7 Margo Cilker
Lowland Trail
"You put it all on the line and it wasn't enough / Better take it to a lowland trail," the rising Pacific north-west songwriter sings on this bright, strummy search for the right path.

PHOTOGRAPH: CINETEXT/SPORTSPHOTO/ALLSTAR
COVER PHOTOGRAPH: REBIS MUSIC 2023

The reader interview
'Folk is a potent political tool? My arse'

Shirley Collins on unearthing musical treasures, losing her voice for 38 years and her real opinion of some folk greats


PHOTOGRAPH: GRANT LEE

How do you manage to look so fantastic at 87? I'm not 60 yet and look rough. *Romead*
I hardly think fantastic is the word for me nowadays, but I've spent a lot of time outside and eaten honey all my life.

Folk music used to be a potent political tool. Does it still have that power? *JonathanKent*
Potent political tool? I would say "My arse", if you wouldn't mind. For me, Pete Seeger bashing his bloody banjo and exhorting an audience to join the chorus of We Shall Overcome never seemed to advance any causes. It just made people feel they were taking part in something. Bob Dylan's Masters of War is great, but I didn't quite trust the people writing protest songs because those I knew weren't, frankly, nice people.

In your biography, All in the Downs, you noted your disgust at Ewan MacColl, both for his unsolicited advances but also for his arbitrary snobbishness on the "authentic" way to sing folk music. Aside from that, do you have any sympathy for MacColl's politics, folk music being, arguably, an essentially working-class genre? *OttoLyotard*
Of course it's working-class music, because the people had to move away from the country to the mills to find work and were still impoverished. But Ewan was a bit of a bully, really. If you didn't comply, you were kicked out of his group. He would turn a chair round, straddle it, put his hand behind his ear to "hear my own voice" and sing. It just made me laugh. He was a bloody good songwriter, but even as young woman I could see he was very pretentious.

On your recording trip to the US southern states with Alan Lomax in 1959 you encountered rich traditions of spirituals, blues and folk music. Did this influence your own work? *weltschmultz*
Only in as much as I realised what absolute treasures we were finding and how important it was to get this music recorded while people were singing it naturally, before it was wiped out by commercial music. That trip was an extraordinary thing to happen to a young woman who hadn't been out of the UK. I have the happiest memories - except the time I got bitten by a spider [laughter]! One lady told us to visit the Baptist snake handlers and said: "They sometimes bite them." I asked: "What? They bite and kill snakes?" And she said: "Lord no, honey, the snakes bite and kill them!"

> Ewan MacColl was a bit of a bully, really. If you didn't comply, you were kicked out of his group

Do you find that the singing voice ages at a similar rate to the body? *sexed-up*
I'm sure that's true for untrained singers. Trained singers can keep a standard throughout life, but I can't bear trained singers singing folk. They're too careful. I completely lost my voice at one point. I was working at the National Theatre [in the late 70s] with my then husband and he fell in love with first one, then another, actress, then he left me. One of them would stand right in front of me wearing his jumper while I was singing, which undermined my confidence so much that, eventually, nothing would come out of my mouth. I couldn't sing for 38 years. Then one day it just came back, so seven years ago we made the Lodestar album.

I have enjoyed reading about the music and musicians you don't like - Odetta, Van Morrison and jazz. What music might we be surprised to learn you enjoy? *lwarne01*
I love the power and beauty of Italian Renaissance music. Cajun music, early English music - Tudor music. I can't bear Schumann or Schubert, and once spent a whole afternoon with somebody who was convinced I ought to like them and played me two whole LPs worth of stupid songs. At the end of it I was so angry, but he didn't like folk music either.

Which singer has been the most overlooked during your career? *Croxleyhornet*
Alasdair Roberts is just about my favourite singer. He's got a great voice and he treats the ballad so straightforwardly. He deserves a lot more recognition.

Coil and [the folk guitarist] Davey Graham seem to be pretty far removed musically. What did you have in common with them? *sexed-up*
On Lodestar, I worked with Ossian Brown and Stephen Thrower, who had been in Coil. We invited Ossian because I really wanted a hurdy-gurdy on the album; he brought some church pipes and we became such good friends. The collaboration with Davey Graham was a long time before that, and he came to me with a certain reputation. I was nervous but his manners were mostly exquisite. The only problem was the drug taking, which he didn't do in front of me. At certain times his behaviour could be a bit odd, aloof, but he was wonderful to sing with.

Many years ago, we named our two kittens Shirley and Dolly after the two finest inspirational women on the English folk scene. Who would you name your pets after if you had to choose someone who inspired you musically? *bootspinney*
I had a cat called Copper after Bob Copper of the singing Copper Family in Sussex who have been around here for at least 400 years. When I was 15 or 16, I naively wrote to the BBC saying I wanted to be a folk singer. Someone passed it to Bob and he just landed on the doorstep. My sister Dolly and I sang him a long Scottish ballad in our best Scottish accents, because we thought that would impress him.

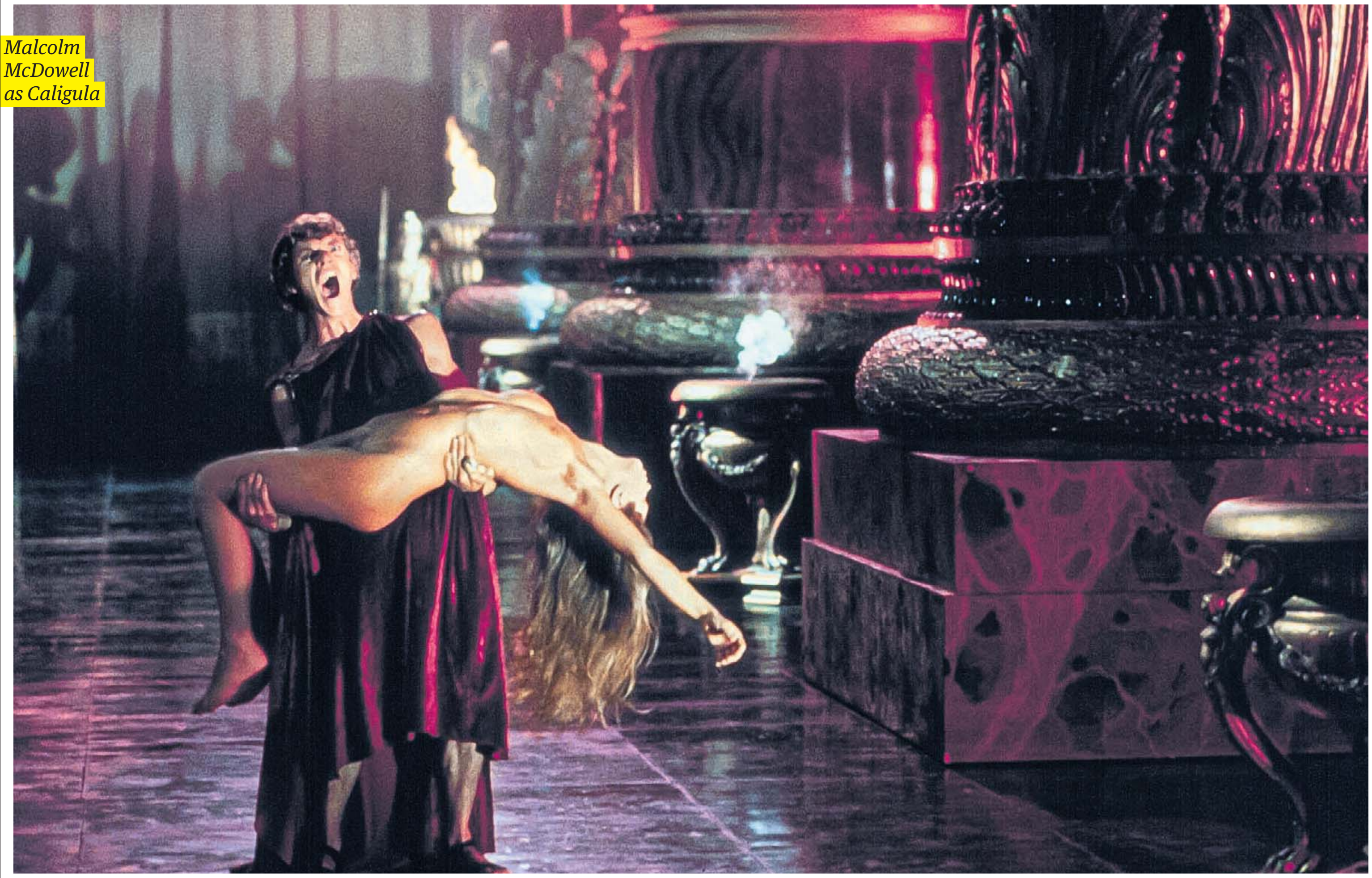
Do you ever get bored with the admiration and awe? *RDMiller*
No, because it's so lovely when people come up and say they loved a concert or that it's nice to hear me singing again.

Dolly died in 1995, but if she was still with us, what would she be doing musically and what would the two of you be working on together? *MrTubs*
I think she would be composing classical music, but we'd still be friends, of course. And she'd be in her vegetable patch. She wouldn't let me have asparagus, because you're not meant to pick it in the first season. I still remember the disappointment of that. Fresh asparagus from her garden would have been lovely.

As told to Dave Simpson
Shirley Collins's new album Archangel Hill is out on 26 May on Domino.

Send us your questions for next week's interviewee
theguardian.com/culture

'The therapy bills were worth it'



Malcolm McDowell as Caligula

Even its screenwriter Gore Vidal called it one of the worst films ever made. So why is Caligula back at Cannes? **Catherine Bray** reports

As quixotic quests go, it's a doozy: take 96 hours of raw footage filmed during one of the craziest and most tumultuous shoots in movie history and attempt to create a new version of the film described by Variety on release in 1979 as "a moral Holocaust".

Step forward Thomas Negovan: the man who rescued Caligula. "There were definitely a lot of points in the last three years where I thought I was crazy," he says. "I thought: 'Is anyone going to care about this?'" In fact, one of the most important entities in the industry, the Cannes film festival, cared very much, booking the new-and-possibly-improved version a premiere in its prestigious Cannes Classics strand, a section of the festival generally dedicated to celebrating the art of cinema at its finest.

"And so all of a sudden, I thought: 'OK, all the therapy bills are worth it,'" says Negovan.

Screened for the first time on Wednesday, the 2023 version is billed as Caligula: The Ultimate Cut, and Negovan is keen to point out that, "The thing that's bizarrely unique about it is it's almost like the version that was released in 1979 is the deviant version. Ours is closer to what was originally intended. Even the word restoration … I don't know what word works, but it isn't a restoration. I don't know what to call it."

A quick recap for the uninitiated: involving more drama than every season of Love Island combined, the 1979 swords-and-sandals shockfest Caligula has long been infamous as one of cinema's most disastrous productions, its very title a byword for what can happen when a creative project spins out of control. Starring Malcolm McDowell, Helen Mirren, John Gielgud and Peter O'Toole, plus a busload of porn stars, the lurid epic about the life of the mad Roman emperor Caligula was a noble attempt to create the most explicit prestige picture in the history of the moving image.

An anonymous crew member described it as "not a shoot, it's the Fourth Reich. Caligula Über Alles." The finished film itself was hardly less chaotic. With finance put together by Penthouse founder Bob Guccione, a script by the leftwing intellectual Gore Vidal, and Tinto Brass, a cult Italian film-maker famed for his erotic movies, in the director's chair, perhaps on paper the film had a certain sort of bold logic to it. Theoretically, these three brought to the table the unique combination of hedonism, intellect and wildcard creativity that the decadent, explicit, historical epic would need. What could possibly go wrong?

Everything, as it turned out, starting with a rocky development period during which Vidal fell out with everyone over changes to the script, and essentially disowned the film. Vidal would eventually call Caligula "easily one of the worst films ever made", which is quite the review to get from its screenwriter. Of course, the film didn't bear much resemblance to the screenplay Vidal wrote. Producer Guccione also wasn't impressed and wasn't shy about saying so: "I've made the worst mistake in my life asking Tinto Brass to direct the film."

> **Still present and correct are the orgies and the genuine shock of some of the violence**



'An irresistible mix of art and genitals' … Helen Mirren as Caesonia

For Negovan, the biggest tragedy of the original film is that the actors were left high and dry when they stepped on set and again when the film was assembled in a messy and contentious edit. Mirren, whose character gives birth in stirrups that leave nothing to the imagination (on stage in front of an audience), called the experience "an irresistible mix of art and genitals" akin to going into Dante's Inferno.

Negovan believes that the original can fairly be described as "the clickbait edit" - in the sense that all the most extreme line-readings were favoured over subtler moments, which is fun in the moment, but doesn't help the actors. His north star throughout the project was McDowell's performance, which he felt was particularly undersold by the original cut. "Like, of course, Clockwork Orange is brilliant. But it's not the same range that he has in Caligula. I feel like this is the best performance Malcolm ever gave."

There is something moving about Negovan's quest to honour McDowell's performance. There's not much the recut can do about the script and iffy camerawork, which are all part of the charm. Modern audiences, attuned to reality television and the way that an unfavourable edit can create an entirely different version of someone's personality, are well-positioned to be more sensitive to the effect that the "clickbait" choices in the original edit has on the film as a whole.

Which is not to say that this isn't the film fans know and love. Caligula's strengths - the elaborate sets (particularly the head-chopping machine), the OTT costumes, the beautiful way that it is lit - are still present and correct. As are the orgies, the infamous fisting scene, the copious nudity and the genuine shock of some of the violence. At the Cannes premiere of the new version, there were some walkouts following the scene where Caligula rapes both bride and bridegroom at a wedding; anyone expecting a purely silly cult movie may be surprised at how dark and upsetting some of it is - and always has been.

Caligula has an undeniable power to it, as an object as much as a film - it is a fiction feature and a documentary of a particular place, time and confluence of different creative energies, and this new version is a compelling testament to that.

PHOTOGRAPHS: EVERETT COLLECTION/ALAMY; CINEMATIC COLLECTION/ALAMY



Good cop, bad cop … Josh Hamilton and Marchánt Davis in Reality

‘I think we have inherent biases’

In biopic Reality, Marchánt Davis plays a ‘white guy with a beer belly’. He talks to **Shaad D’Souza** about shifting perspectives, Chris Morris’s view of policing and meeting Henry Winkler

> **Hopefully a film like this forces people to ask some real questions about what it means to be American**

Should Marchánt Davis ever find himself being interrogated by the FBI, he will be more prepared than most. His first ever leading film role, in Chris Morris’s bleak 2019 absurdist comedy The Day Shall Come, found the 30-year-old Brooklynite playing the role of Moses Al Shabazz, a Black power preacher in Miami who finds himself set up by a team of bumbling FBI agents aiming to frame him as a nuke-dealing terrorist.

In his latest role, in Tina Satter’s gripping Reality, he plays R Wallace Taylor, one of the two FBI agents who interrogated the NSA whistleblower Reality Winner (played here by Sydney Sweeney of Euphoria and The White Lotus), using what many have described as unethical techniques. “When Chris Morris found out I was doing Reality, he sent me an email - from like, one of his 12 emails that he uses,” Davis says, laughing. “He was like: ‘You’re on the other side, mate!’”

Speaking from his apartment in Brooklyn, Davis is goofy and affable, occasionally scatterbrained; he has just woken up, and is wolfing down the remains of his breakfast as he logs on to our Zoom call.



Whistleblower Reality Winner

Where The Day Shall Come was a surreal comedy that nonetheless captured the casual incompetence of high-level law enforcement - “Chris hit the nail on the head with those agents: they’re so often heightened and made to seem really cool in television, but most of these folks are bumbling” - Reality is full vérité, its script drawn from the actual FBI transcripts of Winner’s 3 June 2017 interrogation. “These are the words they said on the day, from the coughs to the sneezes to them clearing their throats,” says Davis.

It makes for a short, intense, pressure-cooker of a film, in which casual, naturalistic exchanges - the agents asking Winner about her workout regimen, for example - have a white-knuckled intensity. It is as far as possible from what Davis calls a “Hollywood-ified” version of these kinds of stories. “I think there are a lot more questions left in the air after this film than answers - hopefully, a piece like this forces people to ask some real questions about what it means to be American.”

Born in Philadelphia, Davis grew up playing saxophone, before doing an undergraduate degree in musical theatre at NYU’s Tisch School of the Arts. In the years since, he has taken on increasingly splashy stage roles: civil rights organiser Stokely Carmichael in The Great Society alongside Brian Cox; a handful of roles in Ain’t No Mo, and currently, alongside Sean Hayes in Good Night Oscar, a biography of the comedian Oscar Levant. Working in the big leagues has clearly been a rush for Davis; on the opening night, he posted a photo of himself, grinning ear-to-ear, at a table with Will Arnett, Matt Damon and Jason Bateman; when I ask about the show’s run, he launches into a thrilled anecdote from a few nights before.

“Sean is very beloved in the industry, so a lot of his friends have been coming throughout the run, people I’ve always admired,” he says. “I was running out the stage door the other night and Henry Winkler runs over to shake my hand; I turned, and I was like: ‘Oh! I love your work!’ And then he goes” - Davis slips into a pitch-perfect Winkler impersonation - “‘I love your work.’ And I go: ‘No, but you’re awesome!’ He goes: ‘And you’re awesome.’ I’m like: *‘No, I’m serious!’*”

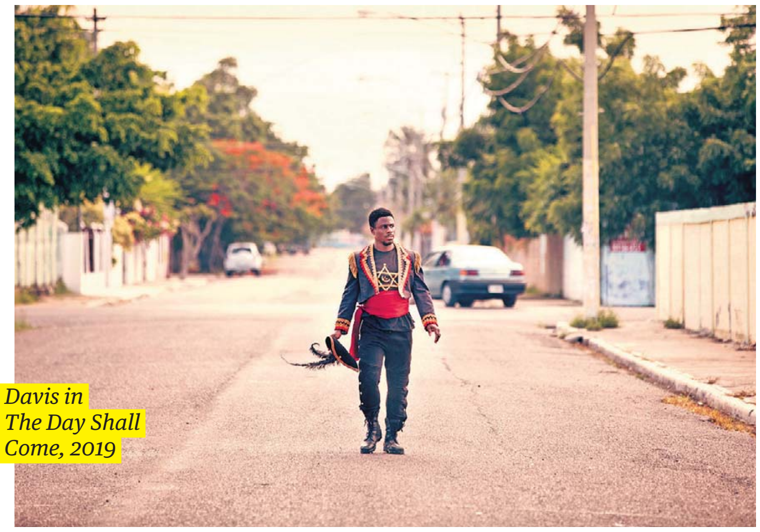
With all these projects, Davis is attempting to evoke the multiplicity of Black male identity. (He has also recently published a children’s book: A Boy and His Mirror, about a Black boy who learns to feel comfortable in his own skin after being taunted by classmates about his hairstyle.) He got the opportunity to do the same with Reality; in real life, agent Taylor was white, meaning that Davis felt free to build his own characterisation of him. “I knew when I signed on that the real Wally Taylor was like, ‘a fortysomething white guy with a beer belly’, is the way Reality described him. Part of that is a bit liberating in the sense that I could look at this through a different lens,” says Davis.

In his mind, a young Black FBI agent would have more at stake than his older white counterpart - hence the performance Davis gives in Reality, in which he plays the straight man to Josh Hamilton’s character, who trades in geniality and dad jokes. “I think by putting a Black body into that space, you open up a different perspective on the scene; he has a need and desire to do his job well, without failure, without fault. He probably hasn’t spent 15 years with the bureau; his want and desire to press Reality might come across a little differently. He can play the bad cop because he’s just trying to excel, he wants to crack the code before this other guy.”

Unlike most biopics, Reality doesn’t provide much in the way of character or narrative arcs; all you really see is a fragment of an interrogation, a single piece of a much larger puzzle. Sweeney, in a recent interview, has said that the film “is not about left or right, or what’s wrong or correct”, and simply offers a window into that one moment in time. Davis says that creating the film involved a kind of push-pull: “Using the bits and pieces of information that Reality had” and “inferring on our own, given the circumstances of that day, what we knew about what it took to do that job on that day”.

For viewers, it means that Reality is rife with grey areas; Davis stresses that Winner did commit a crime, and the agents at her house were simply doing their jobs. “I think we have inherent biases, based on the last few years, on law enforcement, especially as people of colour. I think depending on the lens from which you watch it, you might think it’s critical. But I think Chris Morris is probably a bit more critical of law enforcement,” he says, cracking up. “This is just the facts!”

Reality is out in the UK on 2 June.



Davis in The Day Shall Come, 2019

PHOTOGRAPHS: SEE-SAW FILMS; WIREIMAGE

Fist full of love

Anohni's new album replaces despair at the climate emergency with a folk-rock message of forgiveness. The singer talks hope, soul and empathy with **Owen Myers**



Anohni … 'It's wild to go from an audience of none to halls full of people'

In the summer of 1992, Anohni kissed the hand of Marsha P Johnson. Then 21, the British-born singer had moved to New York to study experimental theatre and was beginning to piece together her chosen family. "I quite idealised her," Anohni says today of the renowned activist who fought in the 1969 Stonewall uprising against anti-LGBTQ+ policing in New York. "A lot of her innovations were unprecedented."

Six days after Anohni met her, Johnson's body was found floating in New York's Hudson river. "That period changed the direction of my life," Anohni says. Since then, Johnson has been something of a spiritual guide: Anohni named her band the Johnsons in tribute, and on her debut album, 2000's Antony and the Johnsons, exalted Marsha on the chamber rock elegy River of Sorrow. "No precious liar or well-wisher / Can return the love that was stolen," she lamented.

Her new album, My Back Was a Bridge for You to Cross, credited to Anohni and the Johnsons (restoring the band name for the first time since 2010's album Swanlights) once again takes the late activist as muse in what Anohni calls a "full-circle moment", speaking via webcam on a sunny New York afternoon. Johnson beams out from the cover art, and the title is a pointed reminder of the sacrifices made by LGBTQ+ pioneers such as Johnson. "A lot of the people that have done the most heroic work for the culture have done it at great cost," says Anohni. "As queer-bodied people, it's easy to relate to that. Kids in the 70s and the 80s were still often getting thrown out of their houses before they finished high school. You find yourself fleeing to a big city where you can find an alternative." There can be a hard-won upside to this, she recognises. "In a weird way, that experience becomes a gift, because it gives us a path out."

Anohni's last album, 2016's Hopelessness, was an unsparing condemnation of systemic injustice. Over grinding electronic beats, it conjured barren landscapes pockmarked with graves. But My Back …, with its gorgeous pastoral folk and 70s acoustic soul, casts a more empathic gaze. Lead single It Must Change addresses suffering the blows of prejudice and trying to relate to those who wish you ill. "I always thought you were beautiful in your own way," Anohni sings, "that's why this is so sad." While Anohni's themes have not wavered, she says, her approach has become more tender. There is a lot more forgiveness in a song like It Must Change, she says, "an almost impossible necessity for forgiveness that, paradoxically, we're going to have to move through in order to make change". In part, she credits this shift to her age. "As you get older, one's approach does subtly shift," says Anohni, now 51.

Anohni recorded My Back … with producer Jimmy Hogarth, who worked on Duffy's retro-soul Rockferry ("I have a soft spot for her," she says). Initially they referenced the lush arrangements of Nina Simone and jazz singer Jimmy Scott, but they soon found a groove of their own, making several songs a day.

Many of the recordings are Anohni's first vocal takes. "It's a wonderful chance to record a song as you're realising it," she says. "It's like catching something that flies fresh and new into the world." Her vibrato remains as commanding as ever, but she has dialled back the hauteur of Hopelessness for a vulnerability that recalls the piercing emotion of her Mercury prize-winning 2005 album I Am a Bird Now. Over the skeletal folk of There Wasn't Enough, she begs for an end to ecological warfare; Sliver of Ice is a "goodbye song" to Anohni's late friend Lou Reed, inspired by a conversation she had with him in his last weeks. "A lot of those lyrics are things he said to me about an ice cube that had been put on his tongue," says Anohni. "It was such a revelation to him, that he'd never noticed how beautiful cold water was before."



Activist Marsha P Johnson, who Anohni met briefly before her death

> **The UK is one of the most misogynist, woman-hating countries in the world**

Anohni, too, finds much to marvel at in Manhattan. What does a day off look like for her? "I love the [Chelsea] Piers in the summer," she says. "I like to go over there still, even though it's quite different to how it used to be. Even Washington Square Park's been quite fun. There's a lot of young people bursting at the seams."

Born in Chichester, England, Anohni and her three siblings were raised as Catholics. At around eight, she realised that the church did not accept people like her. "It was obvious I was transgender," she said in 2016. "As such there wasn't much of a seat for me at the table." Her mother was a photographer and her father an engineer whose job took the family abroad. The Hegartys settled in California, when Anohni was 10. In the UK she had enjoyed singing in the school choir, but her US classmates viewed choral



Anohni with the 2005 Mercury prize for I Am a Bird Now

singing as effeminate. Anohni took refuge in music, drawn to the flamboyant new wave of Adam and the Ants, Spandau Ballet, Yazoo, and especially Culture Club.

Seeking a way out, in 1990, Anohni moved to New York and soon became an integral part of Blacklips, a self-styled "performance cult" who staged weekly events. "The audience was pelted with buckets full of blood and guts, knives, sperm, jewels, drugs, shit and love," Anohni says in a new book that chronicles the collective. And, just as Blacklips were beginning, the death of Marsha P Johnson brought a new impetus to Anohni's work, cementing a sense of "where I was going to sit, what values I was going to name in the course of doing my work," she says.

She began writing and performing songs that would become Anohni standards. By her early 40s, she was performing them with the London Symphony Orchestra. "It's very wild to write a song that you perform in a club to an audience of none, and find yourself 20-plus years later, singing to symphony halls full of people," she says. Anohni collaborated with Björk and





Anohni (far left) with Blacklips; (right) on stage in Spain with Et Incarnatus Orkestra

PHOTOGRAPHS: ANOHNI WITH NOMI RUIZ/REBIS MUSIC 2023; GETTY; AFP/GETTY

Laurie Anderson; a song she wrote for the 2015 ecological documentary Racing Extinction earned her an Oscar nomination. As her audience grew, she began to use her voice differently. In 2014, she collaborated with four female artists on their Future Feminism manifesto, with 13 tenets inscribed into rose quartz discs. In a spirit that would come to define Hopelessness, the first read: "The subjugation of women and the Earth is one and the same."

We talk about Florida's recent ban on gender-affirming care for trans kids. Does the rise of such draconian anti-LGBTQ+ legislation ever make her reconsider living in the US?

"A lot of people don't feel much safer in Britain," she says, shortly. "This anti-trans nightmare is being birthed in the UK. It's one of the most misogynist, woman-hating countries in the world. It was since I was a child, because I remember how it affected my mum, my sister, my family, how it affected me."

Anohni launched Hopelessness with the single 4 Degrees, an angry indictment of climate inaction released to coincide with the 2015 UN climate conference. Yet My Back …'s measured engagement with hot-button topics comes off as a reaction to the "us v them" mudslinging of contemporary discourse. Anohni finds this kind of binary thinking of little use. "I was raised to believe in light v darkness, yin v yang, male v female," she says. "It's this hideous infantilised [idea]. It's stripped of its own empirical reality."

She hopes, instead, that the ecological themes of My Back … will offer a road map out of conflict. "We're connected to life on Earth," she says. "An aspect of this record is to give people a blueprint for how to talk to oneself through some of these painful truths that we're all immersed in." That's the bigger project, she adds: "It's a gift to know a little bit more about what life on life's terms is really about, because that gets me a bit closer to nature. It gets me a bit closer to the tree that falls in the forest, the fox with a broken leg stumbling through a coalfield."

Anohni has no defined plans to tour the album but has a busy summer ahead. An exhibition of her art opens in Amsterdam next month, where she will also restage the Future Feminism series. "We're working away feverishly," she says, as the sun turns golden.

At this point in her life, Anohni is a spiritual guardian for many, as Johnson was for her. If there is anything she can impart, she says, it's that "the pain of this experience" - living - "is a part of this experience, and our creative experience. It's a gift. As excruciating as it is, it's also life in action."

My Back Was a Bridge for You to Cross is released on Secretly Canadian on 7 July.

S.J.M. CONCERTS PRESENTS





GIGSANDTOURS.COM TOUR ANNOUNCEMENTS & PRIORITY BOOKING FIND US ON GIGSANDTOURS.COM



Peter Bradshaw's film of the week

Beau Is Afraid



Joaquin Phoenix on an odyssey to nowhere

★★☆☆☆

Dir *Ari Aster*

Starring *Joaquin Phoenix, Parker Posey, Nathan Lane*

178 mins **Cert** *15*

Having given us two classic scary movies with Hereditary and Midsommar, Ari Aster now unfortunately beckons us down the rabbit hole for a giant and epically pointless odyssey of hipster non-horror. Beau Is Afraid is a colossal recovered memory of mock Oedipal agony which is scary, boring and sad in approximate proportions of 1 to 4 to 2. It's a movie in which Aster has surrendered some of his own originality for an indulgent, derivative flourish that seems to pastiche Charlie Kaufman or Darren Aronofsky's crazy Mother! or maybe even Richard Kelly's much controverted Southland Tales.

Joaquin Phoenix is on really uninteresting form, playing to his weaknesses as an actor as he gives a narcissistic performance of pain, sporting a permanently zonked expression of anxiety and torpid self-pity. He plays Beau, a middle-aged man living in squalor and stricken with depression. Beau is afraid of his mother, whom he is now preparing to visit. He must travel inward into his mind to make a reckoning with what this overbearing woman has done to him. He winds up staying in the home of Roger and Grace, a well-meaning, uptight couple played by Nathan Lane and Amy Ryan, but later finds himself in a Dante-esque forest, where he is befriended by Penelope (Hayley Squires), who is part of a travelling woodland theatre troupe performing a revelatory play. Ultimately, Beau must come to terms with his mother, played with imperious force by Patti LuPone, as well as a figure from his past played by Parker Posey.

The only times the film snaps into some sort of shape and deploys real drama in which things are interestingly and really at stake are the flashback sections, with the teen Beau played by Armen Nahapetian and his young mother played by Zoe Lister-Jones.

The rest of the time it's style and mannerism, with Phoenix not tested as an actor in any way, content to coast through the movie like the Joker on Zoloft. And the final confrontation scene, in which the film almost comes to mean something, collapses into silliness. There are admittedly some laughs to be had with the giant monster Beau encounters in the attic, and what appears to be a reference to Bette Davis. But this happens at a time when the film seems to be asking us to take it seriously and sign up to its sexual and emotional climax - to which we have had a three-hour run-up. Beau may well be afraid, but the audience might be feeling otherwise.

Nam June Paik: Moon Is the Oldest TV

★★★★☆

Dir *Amanda Kim*

With *Nam June Paik, Steven Yeun, Alexandra Munroe, Bill Wilson*

109 mins **Cert** *12*

Nam June Paik was a Korean video art pioneer, experimentalist and avant garde disruptor whose amazing, anarchic career - which flourished in 1960s and 70s New York - is recounted in this amusing and engaging documentary, the title of which is taken from one of his works: a luminous disc on a screen, telling us we gaze at the TV in the submissive way we once stared at the moon. Minari's Steven Yeun provides the voiceover for the artist's own words and, among other things, this film shows us how exhausting it must be to do what he did: to insist, for decades, that his art, an art which bore no resemblance to anything that had gone before, had validity, while always being on the verge of poverty and physical breakdown.

Paik was a music student and pianist, radicalised by his period in 1950s West Germany during which he encountered Schönberg, Stockhausen and especially John Cage, who became a lifelong ally. A Cageian movement in his own work led away from music to an interest in soundscape design, radio and TV and finally video art. Paik's work also involved the manipulation of TV images, an artistic "talking back" to the TV and there is a sense that he foresaw the whole of the internet and Web 2.0.

He was a kind of Warhol figure (or even Godardian figure) in his fascination with the image: a very modern creator.



Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret

★★★☆☆

Dir *Kelly Fremon Craig*

Starring *Rachel McAdams, Kathy Bates, Abby Ryder Fortson*

106 mins **Cert** *PG*

Judy Blume's proto-YA classic from 1970 gets a screen adaptation; it is a sweet-natured, undemanding, oddly inconsequential movie about a lonely, smart 12-year-old anxious about the onset of puberty and adulthood. Blume has a producer credit and a blink-and-you'll-miss-it cameo. The movie is played as a 1970 historical piece rather than being updated, which would require LGBTQ+ plot additions.

Ant-Man's Abby Rider Fortson is engaging as Margaret, who has to move from New York to New Jersey when her dad Herb (Benny Safdie) gets a big, though unspecified, job and his wife Barbara (Rachel McAdams) agrees to quit her art teaching career to be a stay-at-home mom for Margaret out there in the 'burbs. Margaret desperately misses her New York-based grandma - that is, her dad's mother Sylvia, a nice performance from Kathy Bates - and there are other problems. Barbara is bored and unsatisfied. Her own mother's devoutly Christian and bigoted parents objected to her marrying a Jew, which means Margaret has never met them. And then there is Margaret's black comic embarrassment-ordeal of growing up: the boys, the training bras and the sanitary towels.



But what about God, the absent character to whom Margaret occasionally addresses her concerns in private and whose existence she never doubts? Does she get an answer? It was the ostensibly serious, religious nature of the novel that no doubt allayed the fears of school librarians and teachers back in 1970, and allowed Blume her admirable candour in addressing sexual themes; I kept waiting for God to "reply" with some epiphanic moment of divine revelation, the sun coming out from behind a cloud at a key point. Well, fortunately nothing so crass occurs, and that's a relief though also perhaps an anticlimax. A sweet, eminently sensible film.

Games



Lego 2K Drive

PlayStation 4/5, Nintendo Switch, PC, Xbox

★★★☆☆

Developed by veteran studio Visual Concepts, Lego 2K Drive is essentially Burnout Paradise mixed with Lego City Undercover, an open world drive 'em up providing four environments to race through, all crammed with Lego buildings, scuttling minifigs, and of course, a lot of zany vehicles. In a clever play on the endless remouldability of Lego models, your vehicle can instantly transform, so circuits quickly swap between road, off-road and water sections. There are even jetpacks later on.

The races themselves try hard to be Mario Kart. The handling is heavy on drifting, while speeding through power-up icons gives you access to a range of weapons from missiles to spiderwebs. Opponents are never more than a kart's length behind you, and whenever you crash out of the race you whiz through the pack in seconds to start competing for first place again. The target audience of younger kids will enjoy the excitement of constant competition, no matter how well or badly they play.

There is local and online multiplayer, and this may be a decent place for kids to discover player v player racing competitions. The worlds are lovely and bright, with lots of buildings, cars and figures - almost everything is destructible, so there's very little friction as you careen about.

What it lacks though are the witty scripts of the Lego Star Wars games, as well as their sophisticated level of visual humour. But if you want to show young children the thrill of driving across a wild, fantastical landscape, this would be a smart investment. **Keith Stuart**



Alexis Petridis's album of the week

Lewis Capaldi

Broken By Desire to Be Heavenly Sent



Stadium-sized anthems from self-deprecating star

Pop

Label EMI

★★★☆☆

Last month, the 90-minute documentary Lewis Capaldi: How I'm Feeling Now premiered on Netflix. Its effect on the singer's sales figures was almost instantaneous. Singles that were dropping out of the charts suddenly reversed their course. When his latest, Wish You the Best, came in at No 1, Capaldi had three singles in the Top 20. For good measure, he also had a Top 5 album, 2019's deathless Divinely Uninspired to a Hellish Extent having also enjoyed its umpteenth surge in sales and streams.

Well, of course it did. If there was a lesson to be learned from the Stranger Things-fuelled ascent of Kate Bush's Running Up That Hill, it's that, in the 2020s, nothing drives streaming figures quite like telly. Nevertheless, it seems a little odd in the case of How I'm Feeling Now, a harrowing study of the weight of responsibility that comes with selling 10m albums - the moment, as Capaldi puts it, when you realise an array of people are "depending" on your continued success. It's filled with haunting images - the distressing footage of the singer having a panic attack midway through a gig at Wembley Arena; Capaldi's manager lecturing him on the necessity to not "fuck it up" - that linger in the mind far longer than the apparently happy ending: Capaldi back at No 1, his mental health in check, everyone wreathed in smiles. You find yourself wondering whether another huge hit album is what he needs.

But on the evidence of Broken By Desire to Be Heavenly Sent, that isn't going to happen. Capaldi has been bullish about his second album offering more of the same - that this is the music he wants to make - and he isn't joking. The mid-tempo Forget Me, which sounds a little like the Lighthouse Family's pop-soul, represents the most dramatic departure, unless you count the Max Martin co-write Leave Me Slowly, which steers Capaldi towards an old-fashioned 80s power ballad - 3am on Mellow Magic electric piano, widdly-woo guitar solo, a break for an In the Air Tonight drum roll - rather than the 21st-century equivalent which made his name.

The homogeneity has its drawbacks - there are moments where the Hey Jude-by-way-of-Coldplay piano intros and



wounded, roaring choruses merge into one long heartbroken ballad - and occasionally points up his limitations. He's better at misery than soaring happiness; if Pointless is his most coolly received recent single, it might have less to do with his audience demanding more of the same than the fact that his lunge for wedding first-dance ubiquity lands flat and sappy. But it also highlights that, within the confines of what he does, Capaldi is authentically skilled. It's impossible to hear the choruses of Haven't You Ever Been in Love Before? or Wish You the Best without automatically imagining a stadium full of people singing along, which says something about their efficacy.

His voice is undeniably powerful; moreover it adds grit that's lacking among rival balladeers. So, occasionally, do the lyrics. A common complaint about Capaldi is that his music is less entertaining than his social media, but you get a hint of his earthiness. "When I'm with you, it's like nothing else," offers Heavenly Kind of State of Mind, before dropping into Capaldi-ese: "I could run and tell the devil to go fuck himself."

If you've seen How I'm Feeling Now, it's tempting to scan for references to Capaldi's state of mind. The Pretender, summarily dismissed as "shite" by his father in the documentary, may well be the most potent thing here, a rather brave dismantling of his jokey public image with a naggingly effective chorus. It highlights the album's central conundrum, which is evidently set to prolong the success that exacerbates its author's insecurities. He'll just have to suck it up, which Capaldi seems to think he can. You can only hope he's right.

More reviews at theguardian.com/music

Jazz album of the month

Artist Naïssam Jalal

Album Healing Rituals

Label Les Couleurs du Son

★★★★★



In the startling sound of the Paris-raised, Franco-Syrian improviser and composer Naïssam Jalal, the flute's oldest virtues and wildest modern manifestations become one. It came into its own as a solo jazz instrument through such pioneers as Yusef Lateef, Herbie Mann and Rahsaan Roland Kirk in the 1950s and 60s, and Jalal is a comparable 21st-century visionary, drawing on Arabic, African, classical and jazz techniques, hip-hop and more. Time spent in hospital inspired the cinematic Healing Rituals, an album later realised with skilful partners Clément Petit on cello, Claude Tchamitchian on bass and Zaza Desiderio on drums.

Here, Jalal salutes the inspirations from the natural world that helped her back to health. Rituel du Vent is a standout, with a hooting, twisting melody. Rituel de la Forêt builds from eerie vocal and birdlike sounds to a thundering climax, Rituel de la Lune from a percussive bass intro to a dizzying Jalal improv crescendo of headlong flute runs and semi-vocalised whoops. A cert for the end-of-year hitlists. **John Fordham**

Country

Artist Brandy Clark

Album Brandy Clark

Label Warner Records

★★★☆☆



Brandy Clark is one of country music's most reliable provocateurs. Her witty songs tell of characters such as the woman who would kill her cheating partner if not for the fact that she knows the prison jumpsuit wouldn't suit her. Clark's self-titled fourth album is supposedly her rawest since her 2013 debut 12 Stories and there are gorgeous songs here about her family, but it often feels as if she has mistaken seriousness for honesty.

When the lyricism falters, Brandi Carlile's production picks up the slack: Tell Her You Don't Love Her offers an inventive counterpoint to Clark's rich vocal melody. Ain't Enough Rocks offers a glimpse of Clark at her best, as she writes vividly about a girl who conspires to kill her abusive father. **Shaad D'Souza**

Classical

Artist Beczała/Gerhaher/Huber

Album Mahler: Das Lied von der Erde

Label Sony Classical

★★★★☆



Das Lied von der Erde was one of the two masterpieces that Mahler left completed but unperformed on his death in 1911. The score suggests tenor and baritone as alternative soloists to the preferred tenor and contralto, but few of the outstanding recordings of the work have opted for that all-male pairing. Lieder baritone Christian Gerhaher recorded it in its orchestral form in 2009, and he returns to it now with tenor Piotr Beczała and with Gerold Huber playing a piano reduction of the full score. If orchestral colours are missed, the lack of the full orchestral palette brings the voices into sharper focus. Beczała's performances are immaculately weighted and coloured, a perfect counterpoint to the range of Gerhaher's inflections and the way in which he treasures every word. **Andrew Clements**



Meet the family … (l to r) Sophia, Sistine, Sylvester, Jennifer Flavin and Scarlet Stallone

Review The Family Stallone, Paramount+

A punch-pulling 'reality' show in which real life is all off-camera

★★★☆☆

Leila Latif



It's been a long time since reality TV was a truly embarrassing thing to appear on. Ever since the 1988 US writers' strike, when it was introduced to fill gaps in schedules, the genre has been popular with viewers. An Apprentice host became US president, and there have been reality shows starring bona fide movie stars such as Clint Eastwood and Mark Wahlberg. So The Family Stallone might be Sylvester Stallone's brazen attempt to turn his kids into reality stars but it doesn't feel like an egregious betrayal of his Hollywood legacy.

We are introduced to Stallone on the set of Tulsa King, the crime drama he has been filming in Oklahoma for the past six months. We see him return to his Hidden Hills estate in Los Angeles and his wife of 25 years, Jennifer Flavin – although they frequently remind us they first fell in love 35 years ago. A quick bit of maths reveals she was about 19 and he was 41, but hey ho, it was the 80s. Also waiting for him are their three daughters: it is not clear if they live there or have jobs or ambitions beyond being Sly's offspring, but in the two episodes provided for review, being his daughter looks pretty fun.

Sly himself is reality TV gold. He has movie-star charisma, plays into his own mythology with myriad references to Rambo and Rocky, and gathers up pals Al Pacino and Dolph Lundgren to add to the Hollywood glamour of it all. He's eccentric, quick-witted and delightful in every scene or confessional. But there is also unintentional humour in that those confessionals have been staged to make him look as youthful as possible, with a soft-focus lens that is less convincing than the average TikTok filter.

We hear how Sly raised his daughters as if they were training in the military, with 5am regimens of pushups, golf, shooting pool, shotput, chess, poetry recital and boxing before 7am eggs, Rocky style. There is Sophia, the oldest and most sensible; "fearless" Sistine, the only middle child ever to say that she "gets the best of both worlds"; and Scarlet, "the funny one", although she appears so infrequently we will have to take her word for it. They all seem perfectly pleasant, but they are so keen to portray themselves as the perfect loving family that it begins to get deeply weird.

According to the show's timeline, this is all unfolding just after filming for the first series of Tulsa King ends, which Sly posted about on 31 August 2022. We see his wife talk about how "I always get butterflies when I see him" and his daughters cooing: "He's obsessed with you." But a cryptic Instagram post by Flavin on 10 August sparked speculation about marital troubles, before she filed for divorce on 19 August. Seemingly the couple have since reconciled, given reports of divorce proceedings being legally put on hold on 21 September. They are now promoting the show as a united front.

But it all makes the show feel very strange and fascinating. On 16 August, Stallone publicly had the tattoo on his bicep of his wife's face covered with a portrait of a bull mastiff. At the time, Sly's rep stated: "Mr Stallone loves his family. The Stallones are presently filming a reality show together, which will debut on Paramount+." Sly covered another tattoo of Flavin with a snow leopard in mid-September.

The second episode features scenes where he and Sophia discuss how she is considering breaking up with her boyfriend. They're on a gun range, and Sly posted about filming that scene on 28 September, while Sophia's podcast talked about her own breakup on 9 August. The show then cuts to "The Next Day" (29 September?), when Sly discusses guiding his daughter to break up with her boyfriend, while Flavin says their marriage works, because "you've always been nice and balanced". This is a conversation that would have taken place a few weeks after her divorce filing, after two tattoo removals and after being on the verge of publicly thrashing out the breakdown of their relationship.

The inner workings of anyone's family is their own business and celebrities do not owe the public any explanations … but what the hell is going on? If they were filming throughout the breakup and makeup, why is none of that here? The most likely explanation is the family decided that they wanted to do the reality show but not to air their dirty laundry, so scenes had to be filmed later and fastidiously edited. It is a rewriting of history that is mesmerisingly strange. If nothing else, it shows up one strength of reality TV: it features some of the most creative editing imaginable.

What's On
Scan the QR code below to sign up for the What's On newsletter, our free TV email with the best reviews, news and exclusive writing direct to your inbox every Monday

The Chris & Rosie Ramsey Show
10.40pm, BBC One



The married motormouthed podcasters plough on with the second series of their chatshow. Joining them this week are father and son duo Michael and Jack Whitehall, who are used to sharing their "beefs" with each other on screen and on podcasts. The audience are also asked to spill the beans on their relationships in the entertaining Please Keep Me Anonymous and It Goes or I Go slots.
Hollie Richardson

Gardeners' World
8pm, BBC Two
Getting green-fingered helped the journalist Rosie Kinchen deal with postnatal depression, as she discusses in this week's moving episode of the long-running series. Meanwhile, if you fancy trying to grow aubergines, Rekha Mistry has some tricks up her sleeve. **HR**

Hidden Treasures of the National Trust
9pm, BBC Two
This wholesome series exploring the nation's historical treasures reaches Sissinghurst Castle in Kent, where there is a struggle to save a clematis (and the beautiful original terracotta pot that has housed it for decades) that was planted by the writer Vita Sackville-West. Then, it's off to Bateman's, Rudyard Kipling's old gaff in Sussex.
Phil Harrison

Bel-Air
9pm, Sky Max
A strong episode of the glossy high-school fantasy sees Will (Jabari Banks) learning a political lesson when he encourages Carlton (Olly Sholotan) to lead a protest against the sacking of a black teacher: Carlton is an establishment man at heart, and he has been nobbled. Will vows that the revolution will not be compromised.
Jack Seale

Black Ops
9.30pm, BBC One
The cop caper continues with Dom and Kay wondering if Clinton set them on the mission to get dirt on the police and not the gang. There's not much time to ponder it right now, though, as they currently owe said gang thousands of pounds. Might Kay's dodgy youth pastor help? **HR**

Bump
11.25pm, BBC One
This warm Aussie comedy about a teenager who becomes pregnant unexpectedly might not be the most original proposition, but it slips down effortlessly nonetheless. As series three kicks off with a double bill, Jacinda is off to kindergarten and Santi has some surprising news for his daughter and his ex.
Hannah J Davies

BBC One

6.0 **Breakfast** (T) **9.15** Rip Off Britain (T) **10.0** Frontline Fightback (T) **10.45** Defenders UK (T) **11.15** Homes Under the Hammer (T) (R) **12.15** Bargain Hunt (T) **1.0** News (T) **1.30** Regional News and Weather (T) **1.45** Hope Street (T) (R) **2.30** Money for Nothing (T) (R) **3.0** Escape to the Country (T) **3.45** The Bidding Room (T) (R) **4.30** The Repair Shop (T) (R) **5.15** Pointless (T) (R) **6.0** News (T) **6.30** Regional News and Weather (T) **7.0** The One Show (T) **7.30** Question of Sport (T)

8.0 **Would I Lie to You?** (T) (R) With guest Shirley Ballas.
8.30 **MasterChef** (T) The 10 cooks have to serve up a dish they can eat with their hands.
9.0 **Have I Got News for You** (T) Chris McCausland and Kirsty Wark join host Mel Giedroyc.
9.30 **Black Ops** (T) Dom and Kay struggle to meet the gang's payment deadline.

10.0 **News** (T)
10.30 **Regional News** (T) Weather
10.40 **The Chris & Rosie Ramsey Show** (T) Chatshow, with Michael and Jack Whitehall.
11.25 **Bump** (T) New series. Double bill of the Australian drama.
12.30 FILM **Weird Science** (John Hughes, 1985) (T) Sci-fi comedy. **2.0** Weather (T) **2.05** News (T)

BBC Two

6.15 **Homes Under the Hammer** (T) (R) **7.15** Money for Nothing (T) (R) **8.0** Sign Zone: Gardeners' World (T) (R) **9.0** Nicky Campbell (T) **11.0** News (T) **12.15** Politics UK (T) **1.0** Impossible (T) (R) **1.45** Eggheads (T) (R) **2.15** Eat Well for Less? (T) (R) **3.15** Secret Britain (T) (R) **4.15** Interior Design Masters With Alan Carr (T) (R) **5.15** Flog It! (T) (R) **6.0** Richard Osman's House of Games (T) (R) **6.30** Clive Myrie's Italian Road Trip (T) **7.0** Villages By the Sea (T) (R) **7.30** Beechgrove Garden (T)

8.0 **Gardeners' World** (T) Monty Don plants tropical gingers and tomatoes.
9.0 **Hidden Treasures of the National Trust** (T) Inside the homes and hidden lives of writers Rudyard Kipling and Vita Sackville-West, as the trust works to preserve the writers' houses, gardens and personal possessions.

10.0 **Detectorists** (T) (R) Andy and Lance become eco-warriors.
10.30 **Newsnight** (T) Weather
11.05 **MOTDx** (T) (R) Football chat.
11.35 **11 Minutes: America's Deadliest Mass Shooting** (T) (R) Documentary double bill.
1.05 **Sign Zone** Panorama (T) **1.35** Our Changing Planet (T) (R) **2.35** Interior Design Masters (T) **3.35** This Is BBC Two (T)

ITV1

6.0 **Good Morning Britain** (T) **9.0** Lorraine (T) **10.0** This Morning (T) **12.30** Loose Women (T) **1.30** News and Weather (T) **1.55** Local News and Weather (T) **2.0** Dickinson's Real Deal (T) (R) **3.0** Tenable (T) (R) **4.0** Tipping Point (T) **5.0** The Chase (T) **6.0** Local News and Weather (T) **6.30** News and Weather (T) **7.30** Emmerdale (T)

8.0 **Coronation Street** (T) Gary quizzes Faye about her feelings for Jackson. Steve and Tracy realise they will have to sell their businesses to pay the legal fees.
9.0 **I'm a Celebrity South Africa Unseen** (T) Ant and Dec host a special episode featuring previously unseen clips from the series.

10.0 **News** (T) Weather
10.30 **Local News** (T) Weather
10.45 FILM **The Proposal** (2009) (T) Romantic comedy.
12.40 **English Football League Highlights** (T) (R) **1.30** Shop: Ideal World **3.0** I'm a Celebrity South Africa Unseen (T) (R) **3.50** Unwind With ITV (T) **5.05** Ainsley's Caribbean Kitchen (T) (R)

Channel 4

6.05 **Countdown** (T) (R) **6.45** Cheers (T) (R) **7.35** The King of Queens (T) (R) **8.25** Frasier (T) (R) **9.55** Find It, Fix It, Flog It (T) (R) **10.55** Couples Come Dine With Me (T) (R) **11.55** News (T) **12.0** Steph's Packed Lunch (T) **2.10** Countdown (T) **3.0** Sun, Sea and Selling Houses (T) (R) **4.0** A Place in the Sun (T) **5.0** Help! We Bought a Village (T) (R) **6.0** The Simpsons (T) (R) **6.30** Hollyoaks (T) (R) **7.0** News (T) **7.30** Unreported World (T)

8.0 **The Big Interiors Battle** (T) The remaining designers face living room week, aware that judge Dara Huang is seeking the very best of design in each of their spaces. Presented by AJ Odudu.
9.0 **Gogglebox** (T) The armchair critics share their opinions on what they have been watching during the week.

10.0 **The Lateish Show With Mo Gilligan** (T)
11.05 **Sean Lock: Purple Van Man** (T) (R) A 2013 comedy show.
12.10 FILM **Trading Places** (John Landis, 1983) (T) Comedy. **2.05** Kitchen Nightmares USA (T) (R) **2.55** Come Dine With Me (T) (R) **5.05** Jamie's Comfort Food (T) (R) **5.15** Moneybags (T) (R)

Channel 5

6.0 **Milkshake! 9.15** Jeremy Vine (T) **11.15** Storm Huntley (T) **12.15** Alexis Conran (T) **1.40** News (T) **1.45** Home and Away (T) (R) **2.15** FILM Never Let You Go (Mike Hoy, 2021) (T) **4.0** Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun (T) (R) **5.0** News (T) **6.0** Eggheads (T) (R) **7.0** Michael Portillo's Pyrenees Adventure (T) (R)

8.0 **Susan Calman's Grand Day Out** (T) The comic steers her campervan around some of the beauty spots of Devon.
9.0 **Are You Being Served?: Secrets and Scandals** (T) (R) Behind the scenes of the sitcom, revealing how the show's creators had to fight the BBC throughout its run to keep it on air.

10.0 FILM **Are You Being Served?** (1977) (T) Comedy spin-off.
12.0 **The 70s: Songs from the Movie** (T) (R) **1.0** Teleshopping (T) **3.0** The Yorkshire Vet (T) (R) **3.55** Witches: A Century of Murder (T) (R) **4.40** Wildlife SOS (T) (R) **5.05** House Doctor (T) (R) **5.30** Milkshake! Monkey's Amazing Adventures (T) (R)

BBC Four

7.0 **Top of the Pops** (T) (R) From 1994, with Suede, Naomi Campbell and Cyndi Lauper. **7.30** Top of the Pops (T) (R) From 1994, with East 17, the Kinks and Shane MacGowan.

8.0 **Top of the Pops** (T) (R) From 1983, with Blancmange, Wham! and the Beat.
8.30 **Top of the Pops** (T) (R) From 1987, with Cameo, Whitney Houston and Starship.
9.0 **Queens of Song at the BBC** (T) (R) Archive footage of female singers, including Beyoncé, Mariah Carey, Grace Jones and Cher.

10.0 **Viva La Diva: The Queens of Pop** (T) (R) Ana Matronic explores the key elements that have shaped Beyoncé, Cher, Grace Jones, Madonna and Mariah Carey.
11.0 FILM **Grace Jones: Bloodlight and Bami** (Sophie Fiennes, 2017) (T) Documentary.
12.55 **Queens of Song at the BBC** (T) **1.55** Top of the Pops (T)

Other channels

BBC Three

7.0pm Top Gear **8.0** Sky High Club: Scotland and Beyond **8.30** Sky High Club: Scotland and Beyond **9.0** FILM Baby Done (2020) **10.25** I Kissed a Boy **11.15** I Kissed a Boy **12.05** Glow Up: Britain's Next Make-Up Star **1.05** Rookie Nurses **1.35** Rookie Nurses **2.05** Hot Property **2.35** My Mate's a Bad Date **3.0** Sky High Club: Scotland and Beyond **3.30** Sky High Club: Scotland and Beyond

Dave

6.0am Teleshopping **7.10** Driving Wars **8.0** Border Force: America's Gatekeepers **9.0** Cops on the Rock **10.0** Storage Hunters UK **10.30** Storage Hunters UK **11.0** Rick Stein's Road to Mexico **12.0** Special Ops: Crime Squad UK **1.0** Border Force: America's Gatekeepers **2.0** Top Gear **3.0** Top Gear **4.0** Secrets of the Supercars **5.0** Expedition With Steve Backshall **6.0** Taskmaster **7.0** Richard Osman's House of Games **7.40** Richard Osman's House of Games **8.20** Mortimer & Whitehouse: Gone Fishing **9.0** Mortimer & Whitehouse: Gone Fishing **9.40** Meet the Richardsons **10.20** Meet the Richardsons **11.0** QI XL **12.0** Mock the Week **12.40** QI **1.20** Dave Gorman: Modern Life Is Goodish **2.30** Richard Osman's House of Games **3.0** Whose Line Is It Anyway? USA **3.25** Whose Line Is It Anyway? USA **4.0** Teleshopping

E4

6.0am Hollyoaks **6.30** Hollyoaks **7.0** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA **9.0** The Neighborhood **10.0** The Big Bang Theory **10.30** The Big Bang Theory **11.0** Modern Family **11.30** Modern Family **12.0** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **12.30** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **1.0** The Big Bang Theory **1.30** The Big Bang Theory **2.0** The Big Bang Theory **2.30** The Big Bang Theory **3.0** Modern Family **3.30** Modern Family **4.0** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **4.30** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **5.0** The Big Bang Theory **5.30** The Big Bang Theory **6.0** The Big Bang Theory **6.30** The Big Bang Theory **7.0** Hollyoaks **7.30** The Big Bang Theory **8.0** Below Deck Sailing Yacht **9.0** FILM Ghost in the Shell (2017) **11.0** Naked Attraction **12.05** Naked Attraction **1.10** Gogglebox **2.15** First Dates **3.10** Below Deck Sailing Yacht **4.0** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA **4.50** The Neighborhood

Film4

11.0am FILM Tobruk (1967) **1.25** FILM The Quiet Man (1952) **4.15** FILM To Hell and Back (1955) **6.35** FILM Gods of Egypt (2016) **9.0** FILM Hereditary (2018) **11.35** FILM 48 Hrs (1982) **1.30** FILM Escape from New York (1981)

ITV2

6.0am World's Funniest Videos **6.35** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **7.0** Dress to Impress **8.05** One Tree Hill **9.0** Dawson's Creek **10.0** Secret Crush **11.0** Dress to Impress **12.0** Celebrity Dinner Date **1.0** Family Fortunes **2.0** Chuck **3.05** One Tree Hill **4.0** Dawson's Creek **5.0** Celebrity Dinner Date **6.0** Celebrity Catchphrase **7.0** Superstore **8.0** Bob's Burgers **9.0** FILM Fast & Furious 7 (2015) **11.45** Family Guy **12.40** American Dad! **1.10** American Dad! **1.35** Bob's Burgers **2.0** Bob's Burgers **2.30** Superstore **2.55** Unwind With ITV **3.0** Teleshopping

Sky Max

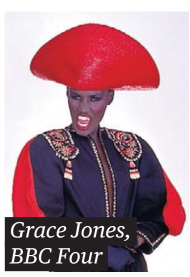
6.0am Stargate SG-1 **8.0** Supergirl **9.0** Quantum Leap **10.0** The Flash **11.0** NCIS: New Orleans **1.0** Hawaii Five-0 **2.0** MacGyver **3.0** Quantum Leap **4.0** Supergirl **5.0** The Flash **6.0** Stargate SG-1 **8.0** A League of Their Own: European Road Trip **9.0** Bel-Air **10.0** Fast & Furious: Greatest Moments Refuelled **11.0** Strike Back: Shadow Warfare **12.0** The Force: North East **2.0** Road Wars **3.0** Hawaii Five-0 **4.0** MacGyver **5.0** Highway Patrol **5.30** Highway Patrol

Sky Arts

6.0am Joseph Calleja: Lead Me Home **7.20** Pavarotti: The Duets - The Best of Pavarotti and Friends **9.0** Tales of the Unexpected **9.30** Tales of the Unexpected **10.0** Alfred Hitchcock Presents **10.30** Alfred Hitchcock Presents **11.0** Discovering: Claudette Colbert **12.0** National Treasures: The Art of Collecting **1.0** Tales of the Unexpected **1.30** Tales of the Unexpected **2.0** The Art of the Garden **3.0** The Directors **4.0** Discovering: Rock Hudson **5.0** Tales of the Unexpected **6.0** Alfred Hitchcock Presents **6.30** Alfred Hitchcock Presents **7.0** Music Videos That Defined the 2000s **8.0** Guy Garvey: From the Vaults **9.0** The Yardbirds: Music Icons **9.30** Cream: Music Icons **10.0** Eric Clapton: Concert By the Lake - Band Du Lac **12.30** Bob Dylan: Trouble No More **1.50** The Rolling Stones: Charlie Is My Darling **3.10** Classic Albums **4.10** The Movies **5.0** Auction **5.30** Auction

Sky Atlantic

6.0am Fish Town **7.0** The Wire **10.0** True Blood **12.10** Game of Thrones **1.15** Ray Donovan **3.25** The Wire **5.45** True Blood **7.55** Game of Thrones **9.0** Souls **11.0** Yellowjackets **1.10** Catherine the Great **2.15** Game of Thrones **3.15** Der Pass **4.15** Fish Town



Grace Jones, BBC Four

Radio

Radio 3

6.30am Breakfast **9.0** Essential Classics **12.0** Composer of the Week: Tchaikovsky (5/5) **1.0** Lunchtime Concert. Forma Antiqua play baroque music from José de Nebra to Boccherini. **2.0** Afternoon Concert. The Ulster Orchestra at Ulster Hall play Mozart's Symphony No 36 "Linz". Plus, early English music from L'Achéron. **4.30** The Listening Service (R) **5.0** In Tune **7.0** Classical Mixtape **7.30** In Concert. At the Barbican, London, Sakari Oramo conducts the BBC Symphony Orchestra, cellist Anssi Karttunen and soprano Anu Komsi in Kaija Saariaho's Du Cristal, Notes on Light, Saarikoski Songs and Circle Map. **10.0** The Verb **10.45** The Essay: De Waal's Itinerant Pots. Edmund de Waal reflects on a phone call with the ceramicist Magdalene Odundo. (R) **11.0** Late Junction. Includes James Acaster's Mixtape. **1.0** Composed With Devonté Hynes **2.0** Piano Flow With Gabriels **3.0** Through the Night

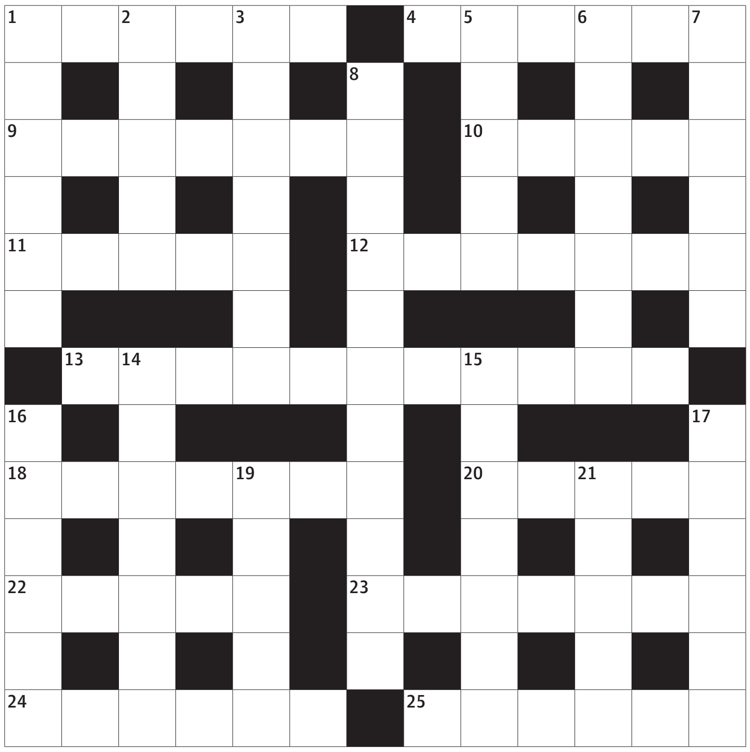
Radio 4

6.0am Today **8.31** (LW) Yesterday in Parliament **9.0** Desert Island Discs (R) **9.45** (LW) Daily Service **9.45** (FM) Book of the Week: Into the Night - A Year With the Police. By Matt Lloyd-Rose. (5/5) **10.0** Woman's Hour **11.0** Is Psychiatry Working (R) **11.30** Ed Reardon's Week (R) **12.0** News **12.01** (LW) Shipping Forecast **12.04** Archive on 4: Whatever Happened to JB Priestley? (R) **12.57** Weather **1.0** The World at One **1.45** Frontlines of Journalism. How journalists should deal with repeated lies. (10/10) **2.0** The Archers (R) **2.15** An Eye for a Killing. Drama, by Colin MacDonald. (4/5) **2.45** One to One (R) **3.0** Gardeners' Question Time **3.45** Short Works. The Suit, by Colin Carberry. **4.0** Last Word **4.30** Feedback **5.0** PM **5.54** (LW) Shipping Forecast **5.57** Weather **6.0** News **6.30** The News Quiz (4/7) **7.0** The Archers **7.15** Screenshot. News and insights from the film world. (7/9) **8.0** Any Questions? From Kirkhill Community Centre in Inverness, with Labour peer Lord Falconer, SNP MSP Kate Forbes and Conservative peer Lord Forsyth. **8.50** A Point of View **9.0** Frontlines of Journalism Omnibus (6-10/10) **9.59** Weather **10.0** The World Tonight **10.45** Book at Bedtime (5/10) **11.0** Americast **11.30** Today in Parliament **12.0** News and Weather **12.30** Book of the Week (R) **12.48** Shipping Forecast **1.0** As World Service **5.20** Shipping Forecast **5.30** News Briefing **5.43** Prayer for the Day **5.45** Please Protect Abraham: Silence (R)

Radio 4 Extra

6.0am Shadows in Bronze (3/6) **6.30** Dr Finlay: The Further Adventures of a Black Bag (6/6) **7.0** Hello World: How to Be Human in the Age of the Machine (5/5) **7.15** Young Victoria (10/10) **7.30** Bridget Christie's Utopia (4/4) **8.0** Steptoe and Son (9/13) **8.30** Flying the Flag (5/8) **9.0** Act Your Age (1/6) **9.30** Bleak Expectations (3/6) **10.0** The One Before the Last **11.0** Shadows in Bronze (3/6) **11.30** Dr Finlay: The Further Adventures of a Black Bag (6/6) **12.0** Hello World: How to Be Human in the Age of the Machine (5/5) **12.15** Young Victoria (10/10) **12.30** Bridget Christie's Utopia (4/4) **1.0** Steptoe and Son (9/13) **1.30** Flying the Flag (5/8) **2.0** Act Your Age (1/6) **2.30** Bleak Expectations (3/6) **3.0** The One Before the Last **4.0** Shadows in Bronze (3/6) **4.30** Dr Finlay (6/6) **5.0** Hello World: How to Be Human in the Age of the Machine (5/5) **5.15** Young Victoria (10/10) **5.30** Bridget Christie's Utopia (4/4) **6.0** Steptoe and Son (9/13) **6.30** Flying the Flag (5/8) **7.0** Act Your Age (1/6) **7.30** Bleak Expectations (3/6) **8.0** Victoria Wood: From Soup to Nuts (2/2) **8.30** A Good Read (7/8) **9.0** The Curious Cases of Rutherford & Fry (3/12) **9.30** A Gathering Light (5/5) **9.45** The Shadow Over Innsmouth (10/15) **10.0** Mark Steel's in Town (4/6) **10.30** DMs Are Open (1/7) **11.0** Tim Key's Late Night Poetry Programme (2/6) **11.15** Knocker (2/6) **11.30** Les Kelly's Britain (2/4) **12.0** Dangerous Visions: Body Tourists **12.45** Someone Like You (3/5) **1.0** The One Before the Last **2.0** Shadows in Bronze (3/6) **2.30** Dr Finlay (6/6) **3.0** Hello World (5/5) **3.15** Young Victoria (10/10) **3.30** Bridget Christie's Utopia (4/4) **4.0** Steptoe and Son (9/13) **4.30** Flying the Flag (5/8) **5.0** Act Your Age (1/6) **5.30** Bleak Expectations (3/6)

Quick crossword no 16,547



Across

1 Apt to bite (6)
4 Long-legged shorebird with a slender upward-curving bill (6)
9 Small four-stringed guitar (7)
10 Tights material (5)
11 Drug-free (informal) (5)
12 Outdo (7)
13 Advance (11)
18 Portable charcoal-burning brazier with a grill for cooking (7)
20 Nigel (anag) (5)
22 Disgrace resulting from detestable behaviour (5)
23 Not properly cared for (7)
24 Come on, spill the beans! (2,4)
25 Requiring immediate attention (6)

Down

1 Plaster for walls and ceilings (6)
2 Divert (5)
3 Old German penny, one hundredth of a pre-euro Deutschmark (7)
5 Gramophone records (5)
6 Sea nymph who detained Odysseus for seven years - a sly cop (anag) (7)
7 Oil-carrying vessel (6)
8 Harmful to living things - our tide eels (anag) (11)
14 Constructed again (7)
15 Very difficult task (informal) (7)
16 Cover - hide (6)
17 Seven similar things considered as a unit (6)
19 A horse designed by a committee? (5)
21 A putt in golf from so close to the hole that your opponent concedes it to you (5)

Stuck? For help call 0906 200 83 83. Calls cost £1.10 per minute, plus your phone company's access charge. Service supplied by ATS. Call 0330 333 6946 for customer service (charged at standard rate).To buy puzzle books, visit guardianbookshop.com or call 0330 333 6846.

Sudoku no 6,067

Hard. Fill the grid so that each row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9.

				7		4	2	
					2	3	5	7
						1	9	
	1				4			6
		7		5				2
	3	1	4					8
	4	9	3					
		5		2	8	9		4

Suguru

Fill the grid so that each square in an outlined block contains a digit. A block of two squares contains the digits 1 and 2, a block of three squares contains the digits 1, 2 and 3, and so on. No same digit appears in neighbouring squares, not even diagonally.

3				2	
				1	
5			5		
	4				
				3	

Wordsearch

Can you find 15 words that go with roll in the grid? Words can run forwards, backwards, vertically or diagonally, but always in a straight, unbroken line.

B	V	N	C	O	T	F	S	D
E	P	A	Y	H	O	N	S	R
O	G	T	O	R	E	C	I	U
B	U	A	W	M	I	E	W	M
R	R	A	S	T	I	N	S	Y
I	R	E	C	U	R	K	R	E
D	M	R	A	A	A	O	S	O
G	A	T	G	D	T	S	P	E
E	K	I	T	C	H	E	N	E
D	G	N	I	R	P	S	A	I
N	E	V	H	C	N	E	R	F

Yesterday's solutions

Sudoku no 6,066

5	2	4	1	6	3	7	8	9
3	6	7	9	2	8	4	5	1
1	9	8	5	4	7	2	6	3
8	4	9	7	1	6	5	3	2
6	1	5	8	3	2	9	7	4
2	7	3	4	5	9	8	1	6
4	8	6	2	7	1	3	9	5
7	3	2	6	9	5	1	4	8
9	5	1	3	8	4	6	2	7

Suguru

3	4	3	4	2	1
2	1	2	1	3	4
5	4	3	4	2	1
2	1	2	1	3	4
3	4	3	4	2	1
2	1	2	1	3	5

Wordsearch

I	S	J	S	A	M	C	F	S
Y	I	M	O	K	V	E	U	D
I	L	L	O	E	S	M	I	E
A	A	C	D	T	E	L	I	R
A	S	R	E	R	T	H	B	F
J	I	R	U	A	L	U	N	T
S	O	O	T	H	C	E	N	R
C	D	H	A	K	T	E	I	E
J	N	S	N	D	B	R	E	B
E	O	M	O	N	T	Y	A	L
D	N	O	N	R	E	V	L	A

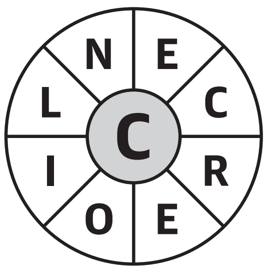
Solution no 16,546

	P	H	O	E	B	E		C	I	V	I	L
	A		M		A			A		E		A
V	I	Z	I	E	R		T	U	R	R	E	T
	R		N		R			S		T		E
Y	O	Y	O		A	T	H	E	N	I	A	N
	F		U		C		E			G		T
	F	O	S	B	U	R	Y	F	L	O	P	
A		M			D		P		O		O	
D	I	N	O	S	A	U	R		W	I	L	D
V		I		H			E		D		E	
E	N	B	L	O	C		S	C	O	R	C	H
R		U		W			T		W		A	
T	A	S	T	Y		C	O	R	N	E	T	

Word wheel
ENLIGHTEN

Word wheel

Find as many words as possible using the letters in the wheel. Each must use the central letter and at least two others. Letters may be used only once. You may not use plurals, foreign words or proper nouns. There is at least one nine-letter word to be found. TARGET: Excellent-30. Good-25. Average-18.



Trivia corner



With what time did Adam Peaty win the 100m breaststroke at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympics?

a. 57.00 seconds
b. 57.13 seconds
c. 56.50 seconds
d. 58.20 seconds
*Answer top right**

Garry Trudeau

Doonesbury



*TODAY'S TRIVIA CORNER ANSWER 57.13 SECONDS